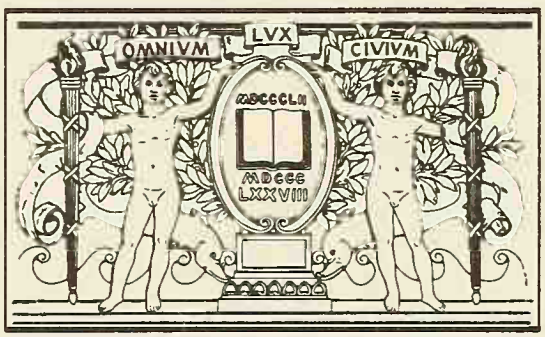
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 9999 06376 945 7

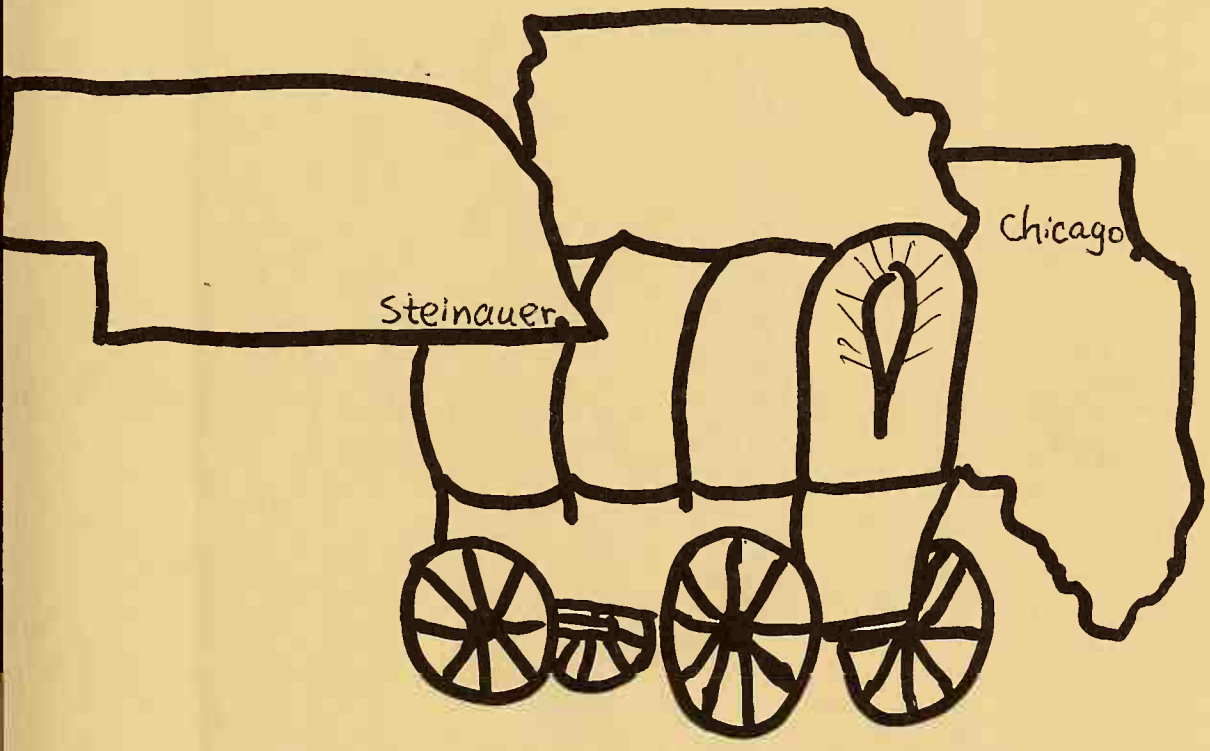



BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
Boston Public Library

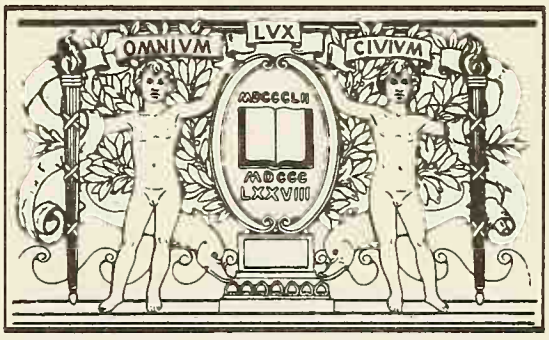
http://archive.org/details/johnvrtiskafamil00knoc

# VRTISKA FAMILY HISTORY




1802-1983

CS71
.V9798
1984




BOSTON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

10.00
100k

# JOHN VRTISKA FAMILY HISTORY

Completed in January, 1984

by

Sharylin Vrtiska Knock

CS71
.V9798
1984

Special thanks are extended to Dorothy Vrtiska Gunzelman, and Steve and Jeannine Vrtiska for their help with the Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska families. Also to Bertha Marousek and William Kerins who were of special assistance with the Frances Vrtiska Marousek families. And to Alice Bolton Morey who was of special help with the Mary Vrtiska Clema families.

To the rest of you that helped with your immediate families, I also wish to thank you. The histories and photos that you provided were all valuable in piecing together the following pages of material.

Names and dates are recorded as given by various individuals; we trust that you will overlook errors. Much time and correspondence has gone in to the gathering of the information. It's been a real joy and sense of accomplishment as I awaited the mailman and the responses that you sent. I've especially enjoyed meeting so many of you through letter and in person.

The first Vrtiska family reunion is scheduled for July 14, 1984, 12 noon, at the Table Rock Legion Hall, Table Rock, Nebraska.

Thanks again to any and all who so generously gave of their time and effort to make this book possible.

Dedication of the work in this book is to my family in hopes that someday their descendants will continue it.

The picture for the cover is influenced by the poem that follows.

Sharylin Vrtiska Knock

# THE PIONEERS OF NEBRASKA

The pioneers of Nebraska
Drove oer the prairies of Iowa.
The journey was rough and long.
The covered wagons rolled right along.
Crossing rivers they traveled ahead,
Heading West towards their homestead.
Tired and weary, lack of rest,
Traveling on to build the West.

When the days work was done,
Under wind, rain and the sun.
Pioneers of the West were singing,
Joy in their hearts a ringing.
Dancing and singing under evening stars,
Cowboys were playing on their guitars.
Where old friendships would never change,
All lived happy on the range.

Building houses of sod and grass,
Starting to build up the West.
From morn till night they'd toil,
Plowing and dragging the prairie soil.
In all weather cowboys would battle,
Tending to the herds of cattle.
The pioneers of the West land
Did always give a helping hand.

by James Fred Marousek
(son of Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Early Ancestory.....page 5

John(Jan) and Mary Smrcka Vrtiska.....page 8

John Vrtiska, Sr.....page 15

Mary Vrtiska Clema.....page 29

Joseph Vrtiska.....page 49

Anna Vrtiska Wenzl.....page 129

Rudolph Vertiska.....page 147

Frances Vrtiska Marousek.....page 153

# EARLY ANCESTORY

**This information was supplied by Steve and Jeannine Vrtiska.

STATE DISTRICT ARCHIVES IN PRAGUE
128 00 Praha 2, Horska Str. 7

In Prague, February 22, 1978

Enclosed with your request was copy of the birth certificate of Josef Vrtiška who was born in Bohemia(Western part of Czechoslovakia), in the community of Nemyšl,(house) number 2 on July 13, 1846. His parents were recorded in the document as Jan Vrtiška, farmer, and Marie, daughter of Jan Smrčka cooper from the village of Prudice.

Jan Vrtiška, the farmer from Nemyšl #2, came from a village by the name of Úraz(popularly known as Ouraz). He was born there on August 9, 1802 at the farm #3 as it is entered in the register of the Roman Catholic Church in Hoštice in the birth records of 1785-1854 for the community of Úraz, on page 5. His parents are recorded as Josef Vrtiška, farmer, and Corota, daughter of Matěj Borkovec, a freeholder from Slabsko. The name Jan was probably given to him on account of his godfather Jan Prchlik, miller from Uraz, who signed the baptismal record with three crosses.

Jan Vrtiška had an older sister Anna(born on April 4, 1799), brother Vojtěch(born on April 25, 1796), and brother Jan born on October 7, 1793) who died of smallpox on May 14, 1795. He also had a younger brother Josef who was born on March 22, 1807 and who later inherited the farm #3 in Úraz. All the above mentioned facts are included in the register of the Roman Catholic Church in Hoštice. Furthermore, it is recorded there that Josef, the younger brother of Jan Vrtiška, later married Marie Kubkova from Nasavrky and that in the years 1830-1852 they had eight children(twin boys in 1852).

Both older brothers Vrtiška had to find their homes elsewhere. Vojtěch(born April 25, 1796) later owned a farm in Petrovice and married Marie Králová from Oldřichov. Jan Vrtiška settled in Nemyšl and married Marie Smrčková, daughter of Jan Smrčka, cooper from Prudice. That community also belonged to the church at Hoštice. In the birth records for Prudice page 19, Marie Smrčková's birth was recorded for the day of January 4, 1815. She was born in the house #12 and her parents were Jan Smrčka, cottager and cooper, and Anna, daughter of František Vesleík, farmer of Prudice.

In marriage records of the same church register, there is a record of the marriage of Jan Smrčka, cooper, 24 years old, to Anna, a 17 year old daughter of František Veselik, farmer of Prudice #8. The ceremony took place on November 5, 1799.

The parents of Jan Vrtiška died in Úraz in the same year; first Dorota Vrtišková, née Borkovcová, on January 23, 1843, at the age of 70, and then her husband Josef Vrtiška on March 27, 1843, at the age of 80.

Signed: The Director of the State District
Archives in Prague
Borivoj Indra

Researched by Dr. Marešová

# VRTIŠKA FAMILY TREE

**JOSEF VRTIŠKA** — **DOROTA**

farmer in Úraz
died 3/27/1843
age 80

daughter of
Matěj Borkovec,
freeholder of Slabsko
died 1/23/1843
age 70

Children:

JAN born 10/7/1793 — died 5/14/1795 of smallpox

VOJTĚCH 4/25/1796 — later farmer in Petrovice, married Marie Králová from Oldřichov

ANNA 4/4/1799

* JAN 8/9/1802 — later farmer in Nemyšl # 2, married Marie, daughter of Jan Smrčka, cooper of Prudice

their son

**JOSEF VRTIŠKA**
born 7/13/1846 in Nemyšl # 2

JOSEF 3/22/1807 — lived in Úraz # 3, married Marie, daughter of Martin Kubka, farmer of Nasavrky, and Kateřina née Králová

Children:

JOSEF born 2/28/1830, died 11/2/1842 of dysentery
JAN 4/15/1833
VOJTĚCH 3/23/1836
ANNA 2/15/1839
MARIE 6/25/1842
FRANTIŠKA 7/14/1844
JOSEF 3/25/1852
and twin brother born dead

# JOHN AND MARY SMRCKA VRTISKA

John(Jan) Vrtiska, the second youngest son of Josef and Dorota Borkoved Vrtiška, was born August 9, 1902. His parents lived and farmed in a village by the name of Úraz (popularly known as Ouraz) at farm #3. This is recorded in the register of the Roman Catholic Church in Hoštice on John's birth record.

John's father, Josef, was born in about 1763, as he was 80 years old at the time of his death on March 27, 1843. His mother, Dorota, died on January 23, 1843 at the age of 70, so was born in about 1873.

John had three brothers and one sister; the oldest brother, also named Jan was born October 7, 1793, and died of smallpox on May 14, 1795. John's brother, Vojtěch, was born April 25, 1796 and married Marie Kralova. His sister, Anna, was born April 4, 1799. There is no other information available on her. His youngest brother, Josef, was born March 22, 1807, and married Marie Kubka. They had 8 children. The first child died at the age of 12 of dysentery, and the youngest were twin boys, one of which was a stillborn child.

It seems that Josef, the youngest brother of John's inherited the farm of the father, so Vojtěch and John had to find homes elsewhere. Vojtěch went to the town of Petrovice, and John settled in Nemyšl and married Mary(Marie) Smrčka, daughter of Jan Smrčka and Anna Veselík. Mary's father was a cooper and was 24 years old when he married 17 year-old Anna. They lived in Prudice where Mary was born on January 4, 1815.

It is not known when John and Mary married, but it was possibly 1840 or 1841, as their first child was born in 1842. They had six known children; John, Mary, Joseph, Ann, Rudolph, and Frances.

Several stories have been related regarding the arrival of this family to the United States.

It has been said that Mary had a hotel or boarding house in Nemyšl, which she sold for a good price before coming to America. It has also been said that she and the family carried the gold received from this sale on their persons, and the weight of the gold was very heavy, and made them very tired.

*Josie Seidl remembers her mother telling her this. She also remembered hearing that John had owned a tourist or eating house. He became ill with pneumonia and died.

The following was found in Czechs and Nebraska, copyright 1967, page 121.....

RUDOLPH AND MARY VRTISKA left Bohemia in 1867 with their three sons and three daughters. The father became sick and died on the voyage and was buried at sea. The mother and family arrived seven weeks later in the United States and settled for a short time in Chicago. Frances, the youngest daughter, remained to work in Chicago and the rest of the family moved to Pawnee County where they homesteaded near Steinauer.

It isn't known who provided the information for this article. This is the only place where John has been referred to as Rudolph. Several things do follow the other information-- We know that they were in Chicago for a short time; there are three sons and three daughters; and that the family did homestead near Steinauer in Pawnee County. In 1867, Frances was only 10 years old. Would she have remained in Chicago to work, while the rest of the family went to Pawnee County, Nebraska?

The newspaper story about Joseph Vrtiska's journey to the United States, page 52 relates that Joseph came across to join his brother, John, who was already in Chicago. Joseph arrived here on March 5, 1867. This story is told by Joseph himself, so should be reliable. It also tells of the two brothers going to Nebraska together the next year.

It is not known when Mary came to Nebraska, but on the 1870 census records of Nebraska, Pawnee County, she; her sons, John and Joseph; and daughter, Anna, are listed.

Pawnee County court house records show that on the 20th of May, 1862, Mary's sons, John and Joseph homesteaded land. Joseph had 160 acres known as north ½ of SW quarter of Section 21 and north ½ of the SE quarter of Section 29 in township 3, north of range 11 E. In July, 1874, 40 acres of this land of John's was sold to his mother for $250 and other 120 acres were sold to his brother, Rudolph for $750. The forty acres of Mary's was later deeded to her son, Joseph.

We also know that her son, John, received his citizenship on April 24, 1872, as shown on the document printed on page 18. To receive your citizenship in the United States, you had to live here for five years without having left the country, and to have been in the state where you applied for at least one year. This leads us to believe that John arrived in Nebraska prior to April 24, 1871, and in the United States prior to April 24, 1867. His brother was said to arrive on March 5, 1867 and relates that John was already here, so it would have had to be earlier than April 24, 1867.

We may never unlock the clues that tell us for sure who came when. Most of the information seems to lead us to believe that John probably came first, followed by his brother, Joseph, and then Mary and the family remaining in Bohemia followed.

What lured these people to the United States? Could it have been friends who had gone earlier? A desire for new freedoms or just a desire for adventure?

On May 30, 1854, the Nebraska Territory had been created by the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. In 1864 the Nebraska Immigrant Association was formed to sell Nebraska abroad and in the Eastern States. Information circulated that was printed in

several languages.

Slogans such as these appeared in the Nebraska City News: "Nebraska invites the homeless and houseless to her fertile soil. Come to Nebraska! Snap your fingers in the face of your creditors---here be men again, and secure for yourselves farms, homes---then pay off just demands against you here and elsewhere."

Under the Free Homestead Law of 1862, signed by President Abraham Lincoln, any man or woman 21 years old or the head of a family could have 160 acres of land if he would live on it 5 years and pay a small fee(about $18). Could this be the attraction that brought them to Nebraska?

One can only speculate what happened as pieces of the puzzle are examined and put into place. We have to admire their courage and determination as they embark on a journey to a new land across the ocean.

We do know that there were many troubled times in Bohemia and Czechoslovakia. History tells us of many wars involving Bohemia and Czechoslovakia. At one point Bohemia was considered to be part of Austria, and/or Hungary. Perhaps this is why we find Austria mentioned on many of the early documents. As time marched on, Bohemia became a province of the new independent republic of Czechoslovakia(1918). This independent country was made up of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. The Czechoslovakia Constitution established the country as a democratic republic. In the years that followed, Hitler had a stronghold in Czechoslovakia. In 1948, Communists had complete control of the government. Today Czechoslovakia is a tightly controlled Communist state and a loyal ally of Russia.

Could our ancestors have had visions of the future and have chosen a new life for themselves in the United States? Much of this and the questions that surround their early days of the middle 1800's will remain among the mysteries of their lives.

Later in life, Mary, lived with her son, Joseph, She died on May 14, 1890, and is buried in St. Anthony's Cemetery at Steinauer, Nebraska.

The pages that follow tell about each of her six children and their descendants.

Mary(Marie) Smrčka

JOHN(JAN) VRTISKA 9 August 1802 - 28 Sept 1865
MARY(MARIE) SMRCKA 15 March 1814 - 14 May 1890
Married Unknown

I. John Vrtiska, Sr. 25 March 1842 - 19 Feb 1912

II. Mary Vrtiska 25 March 1845 - 27 Oct 1927

III. Joseph Vrtiska 13 July 1846 - 16 Jan 1932

IV. Anna Vrtiska 26 July 1850 - 29 May 1904

V. Rudolph Vertiska 1 Oct 1853 - 31 Dec 1879

VI. Frances Vrtiska 10 July 1857/1863 - 2 Aug 1942

It is interesting to note that the same names were used over and over within families. If a child died before manhood, this name was often used again for a later born child. One can only wonder why it was so important to use the same names over and over. It certainly makes it more challenging for sorting out names in family histories.

## CLASSIFICATION OF DESCENDANTS OF JOHN AND MARY

Child.....Large Roman Numeral

Grandchild.....Capital Alphabet Letter

Great Grandchild.....Arabic Numeral

Great Great Grandchild.....Small Alphabet Letter

Great Great Great Grandchild.....Arabic Numeral with ")"

Great Great Great Great Grandchild.....
.....Small Alphabet Letter with ")"

Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild.....
.....Small Roman Numeral

## OUR HERITAGE

As granite stands against the raging storm,
And dikes toss back the fury of the sea,
Our fathers stood amidst the untamed land,
To carve from it a nation yet to be.
Their work seemed crude, their homes of prairie sod,
Seemed lonely on the plain. Yet this we know--
In August's burning heat or winter's snow,
Within these humble homes they worshipped God.
They built foundations strong. How will we build?
On shifting sands or on the granite wall
Of noble dreams and consecrated lives,
As men who dare accept the Master's call.

---Author Unknown

JOHN
VRTISKA
SR.

# I. JOHN VRTISKA, SR.

John Vrtiska, Sr. first saw the light of day in Nemesli County in Tabor, Bohemia, on March 25, 1842. Mr. Vrtiska came to America with his mother, brothers and sisters in 1866. They landed in Chicago and the next year came to Pawnee County, Nebraska.

On July 8, 1871, he was united in marriage to Josephine Kovanda. They were married at Nebraska City, Nebraska in the

Joseph John, Jr. Rudolph
John, Sr. Josephine

Catholic Church. Their attendants were John Clima and Frances Kovanda.

Josephine Kovanda was born in Trimani, Czechoslovakia on January 6, 1849. She came to Chicago with her parents in 1867. In 1869, she came to Nebraska where her parents had already settled.

John and Josephine were among the pioneers of Pawnee County, Nebraska and encountered all the hardships of the early settlers. After their marriage, they settled on a homestead south of Steinauer, Nebraska. It is said that Josephine was unhappy there because the land contained very few trees.

Three years later, they moved to a farm four miles north of Table Rock, Nebraska. Lloyd Vrtiska lives on this farm at the present time. The first house at this location was a log cabin which stood about ½ mile east of the present house. Later they built a frame house, quite a large two-story house.

Three children were born to this union; Joseph, John, and Rudolph.

In 1908, they moved to the home of their son, John. This farm being located three miles north of Table Rock, Nebraska. They remained here until the time of their deaths. John Sr. died on February 19, 1912 with appendicitis complications. Josephine died on June 28, 1937, the cause of her death being cancer. Both are buried at the Bohemian Cemetery east of Table Rock, Nebraska.

I. JOHN VRTISKA, SR. 25 March 1842 - 19 Feb 1912
JOSEPHINE KOVANDA 6 Jan 1849 - 28 June 1937
Married 8 July 1871

A. Joseph Vrtiska 17 June 1872 - 3 May 1933

B. John Vrtiska, Jr. 26 Dec 1877 - 15 Oct 1961

C. Rudolph Vrtiska 4 Dec 1879 - 13 Oct 1973

# NATURALIZATION RECORD.

**STATE OF NEBRASKA,** }
PAWNEE COUNTY } ss.

Be it Remembered, That at a term of the District Court, holden in and for said County, in the Court House therein, on the Ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy two, was present the Honorable O. P. Mason Presiding Judge, J. M. Manning Sheriff of said County, and A. F. Wright Clerk of said Court, when the following, among other proceedings, were had:

John Nortischra a native of Austria and at present residing within said State, appeared in open Court, and makes application to be admitted to become a CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that he had declared on oath, before the Recorders court for the City of Chicago in the County of Coon and State of Illinois a Court of Record having common law jurisdiction, and using a Seal, two years at least before his admission, that it was bonafide his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Emperor of Austria of whom he was heretofore a Subject

And said applicant having declared on oath before this Court that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and adjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Emperor of Austria of whom he was a Subject. The Court being satisfied that said applicant has resided within the United States for the term of five years next preceding his admission, without being at any time during the said five years out of the territory of the United States, and within this State one year at least; and it further appearing to the satisfaction of this Court, that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Thereupon the Court admitted the said John Nortischra to become a citizen of the United States, and ordered all the proceeding aforesaid to be entred of Record, which was accordingly done by the Clerk of this Court.

In Testimony Whereof, I, A. F. Wright Clerk of the Court aforesaid, have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the Seal of said Court at office in said county, this the 24th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy two and of the American Independence the 96 year.

A. F. Wright
CLERK.

## A. JOSEPH VRTISKA

Joseph was the oldest son of John and Josephine Kovanda Vrtiska. He was born on June 17, 1872, near Steinauer, Nebraska in Pawnee County. At the age of two years, he moved with his parents to a farm north of Table Rock, Nebraska, where he grew to manhood.

He was married to Anna Mach of DuBois, Nebraska, on December 28, 1904. They were married in Pawnee City, Nebraska.

Anna, the daughter of Vaclav and Mary Brichnac Mach was born in Kosik, Czechoslovakia on March 28, 1882. She came to this country in 1891, and settled near DuBois, Nebraska.

Joseph and Anna set up housekeeping on a farm northeast of Table Rock, Nebraska. They continued to reside here until in 1933. Anna then moved into the city of Table Rock, Nebr. Both Joseph and Anna were members of the Z.C.B.J. Lodge.

Four children were born to this union; Emma(Mrs. Walter Spier), Blanche(Mrs. Lloyd Wolters), Arthur, and Helen(Mrs. Cyril Perdue).

Joseph died on May 3, 1933 after a bout with pneumonia. Anna died in the Gordon Nursing Home in Pawnee City, Nebraska on October 17, 1966. Both are buried in the Bohemian National Cemetery east of Table Rock, Nebraska.

A. Joseph Vrtiska 17 June 1872 - 3 May 1933
Anna Mach 28 March 1882 - 17 Oct 1966
Married 28 Dec 1904

1. Emma Vrtiska 25 Jan 1906
Walter Spier 17 Nov 1902
Married 29 June 1927

a. Elaine Spier 2 Feb 1937
Charles Krumme 14 March 1935
Married 6 June 1959

1) David Krumme 24 Sept 1965

2) Jodeen Krumme 9 Sept 1969

2. Blanche Vrtiska 29 Jan 1909
Lloyd Wolters 11 Dec 1908 - 14 Jan 1969
Married 10 June 1936

a. JoAnn Wolters 4 July 1943
Stephen Wilson 9 Aug 1941
Married 13 June 1964

1) Michael Wilson 24 Sept 1966

2) Susan Wilson 29 Jan 1971

3. Arthur Vrtiska 10 March 1913
Irma Beethe 16 Sept 1914
Married 11 Sept 1938

a. Sharylin Knock 25 Feb 1942
Laverne Knock 20 Feb 1934
Married 10 Sept 1963

1) Kevin Knock 5 April 1968

2) Larry Knock 28 May 1971

b. Ivan Vrtiska 30 Dec 1944
Karen Peterson 5 Sept 1943
Married 7 Aug 1965

1) Heidi Vrtiska 29 Nov 1969

2) Holli Vrtiska 3 Oct 1971

4. Helen Vrtiska 13 April 1916
Cyril Perdue 15 March 1913 - 27 Aug 1972
Married 29 Nov 1942

a. Roger Perdue 19 Nov 1949
Susan Olvey 2 Sept 1952
Married 28 Feb 1976

1) Jennifer Perdue 23 Nov 1982

## B. JOHN VRTISKA, JR.

John Sylvester Vrtiska was born in Pawnee County near Steinauer, Nebraska, on December 26, 1877. John lived with his parents on a farm north of Table Rock, Nebraska. Later he purchased a place across the Nemaha River from the home place.

He continued to live there until the time of his death, which occurred October 15, 1961 at Humboldt, Nebraska. He is buried in the Bohemian National Cemetery east of Table Rock, Nebraska.

B. John Vrtiska, Jr. 26 Dec 1877 - 15 Oct 1961

## C. RUDOLPH VRTISKA

Rudolph, the youngest son of John and Josephine Kovanda Vrtiska, was born on December 4, 1879 in a log cabin north of Table Rock, Nebraska. He became the owner of the farm, which is still in the family. This was his home until retirement from farming in 1948.

Rudy and Ida Foale, the daughter of Oscar and Anna Ciple were married on April 8, 1908. Ida, the eldest of three

children, was born on January 8, 1887.

Four children were born to this union; Floreine(Mrs. Andrew Schultz), Rudolph Jr., and the twins--Floyd and Lloyd. They also raised Edwin Schwartz from childhood as one of the family.

Ida's death occurred on March 12, 1952. Rudolph, progressively became blind, though enjoying an otherwise rather active life and good health. He passed away on October 12, 1973, at the Humboldt Hospital, Humboldt, Nebraska. Both are buried in the Bohemian National Cemetery east of Table Rock, Nebraska.

C. Rudolph Vrtiska 4 Dec 1879 - 13 Oct 1973
Ida Foale 8 Jan 1887 - 12 March 1952
Married 8 April 1908

1. Floreine Vrtiska 14 May 1915
Andrew Schultz 18 Jan 1914
Married 25 Oct 1938

a. Dianne Schultz 13 July 1939
Donald Wilhelm 16 July 1938
Married 26 June 1960

1) Craig Wilhelm 16 Dec 1960

2) Gretchen Wilhelm 28 Feb 1967

b. JoAnn Schultz 22 Sept 1944
Douglas McGaughey 8 July 1944
Married 14 Feb 1966

1) Shannon McGaughey 31 Oct 1973

2) Kevin McGaughey 14 Sept 1976

3) Erin McGaughey 25 Oct 1978

c. Andrew Schultz, Jr. 3 Jan 1952
Barbara Bates 30 Jan 1952
Married 24 July 1976

1) Andrew Keith Schultz 29 Sept 1982

2. Rudolph Vrtiska, Jr. 25 Nov 1923 - 15 Dec 1946
Eloise Jones 4 July 1925 - 12 June 1954
Married 12 April 1945

a. Jeanne Vrtiska 31 March 1947
Larry Tocco 29 March 1947
Married 1 May 1966

1) Danny Tocco 21 Oct 1966

2) Vicki Tocco 8 Sept 1967

Jeanne Vrtiska Tocco
Eugene DeBeaulieau 20 Sept 1946
Married 26 Nov 1976

1) Erin DeBeaulieau 27 Aug 1980

3. Floyd Vrtiska 12 Oct 1926
Doris Wagner 25 Sept 1926
Married 26 June 1955

a. Terri Vrtiska 15 Nov 1960

b. Lori Vrtiska 11 June 1962

c. Kim Vrtiska 25 Nov 1967

4. Lloyd Vrtiska 12 Oct 1926
Betty Layden 13 April 1930
Married 24 Oct 1948

a. Gloria Jean Vrtiska 8 Jan 1950
Lawrence Hunzeker 20 July 1943
Married 14 Dec 1969

1) Steven Hunzeker 27 Dec 1970

2) Wesley Hunzeker 18 Oct 1975

3) Dana Lyn Hunzeker 18 April 1979

b. Joyce Vrtiska 9 April 1951
Ronald Wiese 8 April 1943
Married 31 Dec 1971 (Divorced)

1) Ryan Wiese 12 Jan 1976

2) Gretchen Wiese 29 June 1978

c. Jerry Vrtiska 9 Aug 1958
Sandra Burgett 13 Dec 1961
Married 21 Jan 1984

5. Edwin Schwartz(foster son) 9 Feb 1907 - 27 May 1968
Marian Yoesel 16 April 1917
Married 15 Sept 1946

a. Linda Schwartz 14 Aug 1947

b. Donna Schwartz 2 Dec 1950
Edwin Brand 26 Sept 1948
Married 10 Dec 1982

1) Kevin Michael Brand 28 Dec 1979

c. William Schwartz 5 May 1952
Julie Jones 4 Aug 1958
Married 6 Nov 1982

## 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Walter and Emma Vrtiska Spier — 29 June 1977

## DESCENDANTS OF JOHN and JOSEPHINE

| | |
|---|---|
| Children | 3 |
| Grandchildren | 9 |
| Great Grandchildren | 18 |
| Great Great Grandchildren | 24 |
| Total | 54 |

MARY
VRTIŠKA
CLEMA

## II. MARY VRTISKA

Mary Vrtiska, the second child of John and Mary Smrcka Vrtiska, was born on March 25, 1845.

On April 18, 1869, she was united in marriage to John Clema.

John(Jan Klima), the son of Petr Klima and Barbora Kucharova, was born on July 3, 1840 in Minice, Czechoslovakia. His birthdate appears on some papers as July 12, 1840, but the information from the State Regional Archive In Trebon, Czechoslovakia, has it listed as July 3. This is recorded in the Book of Births 1832-1872.

After their marriage, they lived in Steinauer, Nebraska, where they were farmers. John retired at the age of 50, and they moved to Frankfort, Kansas. Here they bought a house and after a short time became unhappy. They sold the house to their son, Joseph, and returned to Steinauer, Nebraska.

To this union five children were born; Joseph, Albert, Anna(Mrs. Anthony R. Kovanda), Emma(Mrs. John Felber), and William.

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 18, 1919 in Frankfort, Kansas. The group photo that follows was taken at this time.

Later in life, John and Mary lived with Joseph, and also with Anna.

John died on January 5, 1924, and Mary died on October 27, 1927. Both are buried at the Bohemian National Cemetery near Table Rock, Nebraska.

Back Row(L to R)--William Clema and wife, Agnes, Joseph F. Clema, Julia(his wife), Emma Clema Felber, Anthony Kovanda and his wife, Anna Clema Kovanda.

Center--John Clema and his wife, Mary Vrtiska Clema, John Clema II(son of William and agnes Clema)

Front Row--John Felber(son of Emma Felber), Mary Clema (daughter of Joseph and Julia Clema), Joe Clema(son of William and Agnes Clema), and Alice Clema(daughter of Joseph and Julia Clema)

II. MARY VRTISKA 25 March 1845 - 27 Oct 1927
JOHN CLEMA 3 July 1840 - 5 Jan 1924
Married 18 April 1869

A. Joseph F. Clema 8 March 1870 - 20 April 1944

B. Albert Clema 28 Oct 1871 - 24 Dec 1871

C. Anna Clema Kovanda 28 Feb 1873 - 11 Dec 1957

D. Emma Clema Felber 1 June 1876 - _____ 1955

E. William Clema 17 April 1880 - 13 April 1937

John and Mary Vrtiska Clema taken in Steinauer, Nebraska about 1916, in front of their home.

## A. JOSEPH F. CLEMA

Joseph, the oldest son of John and Mary Vrtiska Clema, was born on March 8, 1870 in Pawnee City, Nebraska. He attended the Academy at Pawnee City, Nebraska.

On March 15, 1898, at the Pawnee City, Nebraska Courthouse, he was united in marriage to Julia Susan Pesek.

Julia, the daughter of Frank Pesek, Sr. and Maria Bauer, was born on August 11, 1876. She attended elementary school at DuBois, Nebraska. Quilting was one of her favorite pasttimes. She used to receive $5 a quilt for doing this art.

They moved from their farm near DuBois, Nebraska to a farm east of Frankfort, Kansas until 1913. At that time they

moved to town and had a Maxwell Garage, an opera house, and a real estate office. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, and served on the schoolboard for a number of years. Julia was a member of the Order of Eastern Star and also a member of the Royal Neighbor Lodge.

To this union, two children were born; Mary(Mrs. Philip Johnson), and Alice(Mrs. Harvey Bolton, Mrs. Louis Metzger, Mrs. Ward Morey).

Joseph passed away on April 20, 1944 at Frankfort, Kansas. The cause of death was cancer. Julia passed away at Frankfort, Kansas on February 19, 1950. The cause of her death was a stroke, the climax of diabetes that she had had for several years. Both are buried at Frankfort, Kansas.

A. Joseph Clema 8 March 1870 - 20 April 1944
Julia Susan Pesek 11 Nov 1876 - 19 Feb 1950
Married 15 March 1898

1. Mary Helen Clema 26 Mar 1899 - 4 Dec 1979
Philip Johnson 16 April 1892 - 25 July 1972
Married 17 March 1925

a. Philip Johnson, Jr. 21 Feb 1926
Florence Thompson 19 April 1925
Married 13 April 1947

1) Cheryl Ann Johnson 28 July 1948
Wayne Myers 19 Jan 1943
Married 9 Sept 1972 (Divorced)

2) Douglas Johnson 10 Dec 1951 -
21 Oct 1973
Monica Neidinger 5 Aug 1953
Married 21 April 1973

Monica Neidinger Johnson
William Ludgote 29 Jan 1947
Married 6 March 1974

a) Todd Ludgote 25 Dec 1975

b) Holly Ludgote 31 Mar 1979

3) Ronald Johnson 29 Jan 1964

b. Joseph Alan Johnson 21 Aug 1936
Georgia Lewis 12 Oct 1937
Married 4 Jan 1958

1) Dawn Johnson 20 Oct 1958

2) Laura Johnson 30 July 1960

3) Lewis A. Johnson 29 Oct 1963

4) Paula Johnson 5 June 1972

2. Alice Mae Clema 5 Oct 1908
Harvey Bolton 16 Dec 1907 - 17 Aug 1974
Married 14 June 1959

a. Dia Harvette Bolton 5 Sept 1937
Darrell Hermas Kraushaar 23 Sept 1932
Married 14 June 1959

1) Duane Hermas Kraushaar 19 Aug 1961
Annette Wallace Stancombe
Married 4 Dec 1971

b. Darold Duane Bolton 5 Nov 1941
Janet Oestreick 31 Oct 1949
Married 4 Dec 1971

1) Von Jared Bolton 20 May 1975

2) Kari C. Bolton 14 Oct 1977

Alice Clema Bolton
Louis Walter Metzger 8 Apr 1911 - 8 March 1981
Married 18 Sept 1976

Alice Clema Bolton Metzger
Ward Grant Morey _____
Married 27 Dec 1982

## B. ALBERT CLEMA

Albert Clema, the second of five children born to John and Mary Vrtiska Cleam was born on October 28, 1871.

He lived only about two months, as death came on December 24, 1871.

B. Albert Clema 28 Oct 1871 - 24 Dec 1871

## C. ANNA CLEMA

Anna, the third child of John and Mary Vrtiska Clema, was born on February 28, 1873, on a homestead near Steinauer, Nebraska. She attended the rural school near her home and later studied to be a teacher at the academy in Pawnee City, Nebraska.

On August 18, 1891, she was united in marriage to A.R. Kovanda of Table Rock, Nebraska.

Anthony R.(A.R.) was born in Czechoslovakia on May 6, 1863. He came with his parents to the United States in 1867. An article from A History of Czechs in Nebraska follows on the pages. His father was Albert Kovanda.

The young couple began housekeeping on Mr. Kovanda's farm north of Table Rock, Nebraska. Her their son, Rudy, was born on March 22, 1893. In 1898, the family moved to the town of Table Rock, Nebraska, where Mr. Kovanda engaged in the hardware and furniture business. He continued with this until he was appointed as postmaster in 1916. He was reappointed in 1920. Anna served as his assistant in the post office during those eight years.

Anna was a member of the Methodist Church in Table Rock, where she served as a Sunday School teacher, superintendent, and secretary of the church for 27 years. She also was active in the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association promoting educational programs, pageants, and dramatics. She was also vice-president of the Nebraska Woman's Suffrage Association. An article taken from A History of Czechs in Nebraska follows.

She also served as President of the Elk Creek Bank, Elk Creek, Nebraska; a position she assumed at the time of her husband's death in 1932.

Anthony died on March 14, 1931. Anna died on December 11, 1957 at the Pawnee Memorial Hospital, Pawnee City, Nebraska. Both are buried in the Bohemian National Cemetery east of Table Rock, Nebraska.

(L to R) Anna Clema Kovanda and her husband, A.R., Mary and Alice Clema(daughters of Joseph F. and Julia Clema)

Articles taken from A History of Czechs(Bohemians) in Nebraska, by Rose Rosicky, copyright 1929.

pages 124 and 125---Mr. A.R. Kovanda, Table Rock Nebraska, who came with parents in 1867, his father Albert Kovanda taking a cabin then, writes: "We went from St. Joseph by boat to Aspinwall, now extinct. Herman and Shary had a tavern there. The next morning my father, who had preceded us to prepare a place, came with Mr. Skala and took us to Frank Raitera's farm, to a dug-out. That was in August, 1867. From there we went to our claim, where we camped. As far as eye could see there was nothing but the bare prairie, not a house or piece of timber anywhere. The next day my father and oldest brother made a dug-out, for father had bought a team of oxen in St. Joseph and so was able to haul logs and brushwood. Our abode was all right in dry weather, but all wrong in rainy times, when it filled with water. We lived there a year, than father hauled boards from Brownville, and erected a frame shelter over the hole. This was all right in warm and calm weather, all wrong in cold or windy weather, too much ventilation. Our land was crossed by an Indian trail leading west from St. Joseph and from Kansas City to Nebraska City. Some Indians stopped every day, begging food and tobacco. Mother gave them rye or corn bread and they departed satisfied."

pages 472 and 473---Mrs. Anna R. Kovanda, Table Rock, Nebraska, was for several years vice-president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association for Nebraska and in 1915 was elected president. However, she resigned that honor and again became vice-president. For four years (1910-1914) she directed the Headquarters of Literature at the Epworth League Assembly in Lincoln and also in Pawnee City, Nebraska. For her loyal and energetic service, she received a diploma entitling her to the Honor Roll of the brave army of men and women who have rendered distinguished

service to the cuase of woman suffrage in America. This diploma is signed by Carrie Chapman Catt, President, and Jeanette L. Wilson, Recording Secretary. Mrs. Kovanda has also been active among her own people, having taught the Czech School and directed many dramatic performances in Czech and participating in lodge life. Mrs. Kovanda's parents, John Klima and wife, were Pawnee County pioneers. She was born on their farm near Steinauer, February 28, 1873. She attended the public schools and the Pawnee City Academy. On August 18, 1891, she married A.R. Kovanda, a son of pioneers there. They have one son, now president of the State Bank of Elk Creek.

A.R. Kovanda

Anna Kovanda

C. Anna Clema 28 Feb 1873 - 11 Dec 1957
Anthony R. Kovanda 6 May 1863 - 14 March 1931
Married 18 Aug 1891

1. Rudolph A. Kovanda 22 March 1893 - 1 Feb 1954
Mary Petrasek 7 June 1892 - 27 March 1959
Married 30 Sept 1916

a. William A. Kovanda 16 June 1918 -
7 April 1942

b. Helen Kovanda 17 Jan 1920
Allen L. Myers, Jr. 6 Feb 1920
Married 21 May 1942

1) Lynne Marynell Myers 3 Aug 1943
Walter Eyles, Jr. 1 Oct 1943
Married 18 Dec 1961

a) William H. Eyles 8 Jan 1963

b) Sally E. Eyles 13 Jan 1966

2) Billie K. Myers 15 May 1947
Michael Wolther 15 Sept 1947
Married 19 Aug 1972 (Divorced)

3) Sally Ann Myers 20 Aug 1948

## D. EMMA CLEMA FELBER

Emma, the fourth child of Mary Vrtiska and John Clema, was born on March 25, 1845.

She was united in marriage to Mark L. Felber in 1902.

Mark L. Felber was born in 1876.

One son was born to this union, John Clema Felber. John lives in Ohio.

Emma passed away in 1955 and Mark in 1960.

It is hope that more can be learned about this family at a later date.

D. Emma Clema Felber 1 June 1876 - _____1955
Mark L. Felber _____1976 - _____1960
Married _____1902

1. John Clema Felber _____1906
Marguerite Bair _____
Married 1 March 1929

a. Joanne Emma Felber _____1929
Chas. Peterson _____
Married _____

1) Ross Charles Peterson _____1969

b. Marguerite Adele Felber _____1931
Louis Totka _____
Married _____

1) Michael Totka _____
_____
Married _____

2) Terri Totka _____

_____

Married _____

a) Chriss Lee Totka _____

b) Heather Marie Totka _____

John Clema Felber
Martha Brooker _____
Married _____1940

## E. WILLIAM JOHN CLEMA

William John Clema was born on April 17, 1880 near DuBois, Nebraska. Will or Bill as he was usually called, went through the eighth grade. He then went to Business College in Lincoln, Nebraska for a six month course.

On January 15, 1908, he married Agnes Mary Eis. They were married in Pawnee City, Nebraska by Judge Barton.

Agnes, the daughter of John and Sophia Eis, was born on a farm south of Humboldt, Nebraska, on December 16, 1888.

They then owned a lumber yard in Steinauer, Nebraska--the Steinauer Lumber Company. He sold it after World War I. They were active people in this small community in southeast Nebraska.

After selling his business, they with their sons lived in California for a year or so and then came back to Nebraska. They lived in Pawnee City, Beatrice, and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Two sons were born to this union; John Mathias, and Joseph (Joe) Arthur.

After John and Joe graduated from the University with degrees in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, respectively; they then moved to a small farm near Nebraska City, Nebraska. Here they lived until Will died.

Will died on April 13, 1937 of lobar pneumonia. He is buried in the Bohemian National Cemetery near Table Rock, Nebraska.

Agnes then moved to Humboldt, Nebraska where she lived for years until going to McAllen Texas where her son lived. She died here on December 3, 1981. She is buried in McAllen, Texas.

(L to R) Joe A. Clema, Sylva Kotouc Clema(his wife), Agnes Eis Clema, Lucille Anderson Clema, and her husband, John M. Clema. Taken in McAllen, Texas in front of Agnes' home.

E. William John Clema 17 April 1880 - 13 April 1937
Agnes Eis 16 Dec 1888 - 3 Dec 1981
Married 15 Jan 1908

1. John Mathias Clema 30 Mar 1909
Lucille Anna Anderson 30 Apr 1906
Married 8 June 1929

a. John Mathias Clema Jr. 25 July 1940
Joan G. Gibbs 7 Aug 1945
Married 5 Apr 1977

2. Joseph Arthur Clema 27 Jan 1912 - 9 Aug 1982
Sylva Marie Kotouc 5 June 1912
Married 19 Nov 1937

a. Joe Kotouc Clema 23 Sep 1938
Mary Arta Chipman 12 Oct 1943
Married 10 May 1963

1) Jennifer Arta Clema 4 Apr 1968

b. William Lute Clema 3 May 1940
Janice Marie Woelfle 12 Nov 1944
Married 20 June 1964

1) Kristy Leigh Clema 22 June 1970

William Lute Clema
Susan Patricia Graham Hayes 9 Oct 1940
Married _____

## 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| John and Mary Vrtiska Clema | 18 April 1919 |
| John and Lucille Anderson Clema | 8 June 1979 |

## DESCENDANTS OF JOHN and MARY

| | |
|---|---|
| Children | 5 |
| Grandchildren | 6 |
| Great Grandchildren | 11 |
| Great Great Grandchildren | 18 |
| Great Great Great Grandchildren | 6 |
| | 46 |

# JOSEPH VRTISKA

## III. JOSEPH VRTISKA

Joseph Vrtiska, the third oldest child of John and Mary Smrcka Vrtiska, was born in the village of Nemisel, Tabor, Bohemia on July 13, 1846.

At the age of 20, he left Bohemia to come to America. He embarked at Bremen, Germany on the ship "The Amelia" on November 15, 1866. This trip was to last for three months. They encountered a storm at sea, and it was March 5, 1867 when he landed in New York. (A copy of the newspaper account follows) From New York, he went to Chicago where his brother John resided. The two of them then came to Pawnee County, Nebraska, where they homesteaded land.

On October 3, 1870, Joseph married Theresa Wenzl in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Theresa was born on March 28, 1855 in New Wallisdorf, Austria. She came to America with her family at the age of 12 and lived on a homestead two miles north of Steinauer, Nebraska.

After their marriage, they lived on the land Joseph had homesteaded, 1½ miles east of Steinauer, Nebraska. They lived on this place for 43 years. They first made their home in a one-room log cabin with two windows and a door. Later they built a two-story house with 12 rooms in which they reared ten children.

Ten children, five boys and five girls, were born to this couple. Their children are; Mary Agnes(Mrs. Nicholas Steinauer), Frank, Frances Agatha(Mrs. Frank Duder), Joseph Ferdinand, Rudolph Blaze, John Alois, Anton Phillip, Theresa Josephine(Mr. Wenzl Seidl), Emilian (Emma)(Mrs. Raymond Good), and Agnes Ann(Mrs. Raymond Churchill.

Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska

III. JOSEPH VRTISKA 13 July 1846 - 16 Jan 1932
THERESA WENZL 29 March 1855 - 18 Jan 1929
Married 3 October 1870

A. Mary Agnes Vrtiska Steinauer 1 Oct 1871 - 20 Sept 1963

B. Frank Vrtiska 29 March 1873 - 11 April 1953

C. Frances Agatha Vrtiska Duder 25 May 1875 - 27 Mar 1959

D. Joseph Ferdinand Vrtiska 29 Oct 1877 - 5 Apr 1966

E. Rudolph Blaze Vrtiska 3 Feb 1880 - 24 Feb 1968

F. John Alois Vrtiska 5 Nov 1883 - 23 Aug 1960

G. Theresa Josephine Vrtiska Seidl 23 June 1890 - 21 Apr 1982

H. Emilian(Emma) Vrtiska Good 19 Feb 1893 - 23 Nov 1975

I. Agnes Ann Vrtiska Churchill 24 Nov 1895 - 13 Feb 1938

Original Joseph Vrtiska homestead in Steinauer, Nebraska. The picture shows Joseph and Theresa with 8 of their 10 children. With the horse is Joseph Ferdinand. Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska is holding Emma. Her husband, Joseph, is standing beside her. On the rocking horse is Josephine, with Anton standing beside her. John is behind Anton. The boy on the walk is Frank. The girl is either Mary or Frances, and the boy to her right is Rudolph. This picture is in the possession of Boyd Good.

# ADRIFT IN ATLANTIC OCEAN

(This article appeared in the Tecumseh Chieftain, Feb. 24, 1923)

## HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE OF A TECUMSEH MAN

### Three Months Required in Trip from Bohemia to United States Many Years Ago

Many are the men of this, and every other community, who could recite incidents in their lives which would be most interesting, were there any way to induce a recital of such narratives. We have in mind especially an experience of our highly esteemed fellow citizen, Joseph Vrtiska. The Chieftain recently learned that there was an experience of far more than passing interest, in the life of this citizen, and we have the facts of the same from that gentleman, and his permission to publish them. It was the experience Mr. Vrtiska had in coming to the United States, some fifty-seven years ago.

Mr. Vrtiska was born at Nemisel Village, Tabor, Bohemia, July 13, 1846. With great difficulty he came to the United States in 1867. He sailed from Bremen, November 15, 1866, and, through the difficulties above hinted at, was able to land in New York City on March 3, the next year, 1867. The boat he embarked on was a German freight and passenger craft, "Amelia," of the old sailboat pattern depending entirely upon the winds for power of navigation. There were perhaps 300 passengers aboard the boat, together with a full assignment of freight. Mr. Vrtiska, a young man of limited means, was obliged to take passage in the steerage. There was a wait at Bremen of a full week after he reached port, before there was sufficient wind for the "Amelia" to assume the ocean trip. In those days of sailing boats several weeks were required to cross the Atlantic, even with most favorable of weather. From the day of sailing until the last day of December the "Amelia" plowed the waters of the great ocean steadily, day by day, and seemed to be making progress which was satisfactory to the captain and other boat officers. At that time the captain ordered the boat cleaned up and

advised that she was within two days of the American port, New York City. It was a custom to have the boat ready for "dress parade" upon landing.

The very day that the captain passed the word along that he expected to land his passengers within two days a terrible storm came up from the west, becoming most terrific by midnight. The storm became so violent the boat was practically helpless. The great masts and sails of the boat were blown down, and the captain ordered men on the decks, secured with life lines to guard against being dashed away in the infuriated waters. to cut the huge ropes and other moorings which clung to the vessel, the fear being they would cause the boat to capsize. These were washed away in the monstrous drifts of water, and the great hulk was at the mercy of the storm. For four days and nights the vessel rolled and tossed in the terrible seas, and, even though the boat was sealed at best it could be, water washing over it found its way into the craft, and filled the lower portion of the boat to a considerable depth. The pumps were out of commission and it began to look as though a sufficient amount of the water would soon fill the boat to cause it to sink. At any moment it was feared the vessel might capsize.

Fearful of the added weight of the water causing the boat to go down, the captain ordered every able bodied man on the boat into service, and he caused a great deal of the freight of the boat to be thrown out of the hatchways, as opportunity would offer, to lighten the load. Finally, after hours and hours of terrorizing anxiety on the part of the passengers and the most heroic work by the officers and men of the boat, the storm subsided and the ship stopped tossing. The passengers were allowed to go to the decks, and a sorry sight, indeed, greeted their eyes. During the four days of the storm there had been but little, if anything, to eat, and this was served with difficulty, for the boat pitched and tossed so badly it was almost impossible for persons to stay in their bunks, to say nothing of getting about the boat. With the calming of the sea a period of

four weeks of helpless drifting started for the "Amelia". The captain organized his men, every male passenger, and started a systematic work of unloading the freight, and this work proceeded all the time. The ship's instruments indicated that the boat had been driven from the usual paths of transportation, and there was fear of inability to signal help. Every effort was put forth to attract the attention of any boat that might be in the locality. Imagine the disappointment of these distressed people when the first boat, easily sighted by the passengers, failed to notice the distress signals and passed on its way without a signal of any sort. The captain ordered all the canvas on the boat brought up, and made some improvised sails, small indeed but which caused the boat to make some little headway and which it was hoped might be seen by passing craft. At last a sailing vessel which was to be the succor of the "Amelia" hove in sight. Every possible energy at signaling was put into force, and after a considerable time, there came an answer. The strange boat went out of its course, and sailed as near the "Amelia" as the officers dared. The captains exchanged messages over their speaking instruments, for it must be borne in mind that this was years before the thought of wireless had entered the head of man. With difficulty the officers exchanged words and finally the strange vessel lifted its sails and disappeared. The captain informed the anxious passengers that the sail boat was not able to take them off, but that the captain left word that he would go for help at once. About a day and one-half after there was joy on the "Amelia", indeed, when a steamboat or large tug approached and signalled the boat in distress.

All hands were soon on deck, the day was pleasant and the water quiet. But soon the captain ordered everybody below, explaining afterwards that he wanted to "dicker" with the steamboat owner, and, if he should see all the passengers on deck, his charge for towing the stranded boat to port would likely be more than it would be if he thought there were few, if any, passengers. After the "deal" had been made, terms agreed upon, the captain allowed all to return to the deck. A great two line or hauser was thrown from

the steamboat and made fast to the "Amelia", and the rescue boat got under good steam and the boats proceeded towards a haven of safety. Twenty-four hours after, the "Amelia" was towed into the harbor at Liverpool. In other words, after being on the ocean for nearly two months, and having gotten within two days of his landing place on this side, Mr. Vrtiska found himself comparatively near his port of embarkation in the old country, having experienced an ocean voyage which drove one passenger insane, and during which three had died, to be buried at sea.

An inspector came aboard the "Amelia" at Liverpool, and he ordered the immediate unloading of passengers, stating that the vessel could float but a couple of days longer under its great load of water which had washed into it during the storm. Five days after reaching the port the passengers of the doomed boat found themselves aboard a good ocean going steamboat, with better fare and accommodations. Their tickets were honored for transportation, and so, you see, they really had three trips across the Atlantic for the price of one. Three weeks later Mr. Vrtiska found himself in New York City. Counting the time required in going from his native village to Bremen, and that consumed in the terrible ocean voyage first above recited, as well as that of the final passage, Mr. Vrtiska was three months in reaching New York City from his native home. In this day of rapid railroad travel, and with few days only required for the ocean trip, it is hard to realize his hardships. A brother, John Vrtiska, had located in Chicago, coming to this country before the Tecumseh gentleman did, and Mr. Vrtiska went to that city at once to join him. In July of the year of the landing here Mr. Vrtiska came to the great west of the day, taking a homestead in Pawnee County, which he proved up and where the family lived for many years. Mr. Vrtiska's wife was Theresa Wenzl, and they were married in Pawnee County fifty years ago on October 3 of last year. They are the parents of ten children, five boys and five girls, none of whom are now living at home, but all having homes of their own. Mr. and Mrs. Vrtiska have been residents of our city for the past eight years, and are among our most

highly respected people. In a talk with the gentleman concerning the eventful voyage above set out one gets much more of the horrors of being adrift in a storm swept ocean than it would be possible to write.

--This article is dated 24 Feb 1923

## A. MARY AGNES VRTISKA

Mary Agnes was the first born child of Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska. She was born on October 1, 1871.

On February 5, 1894, she was united in marriage to Nicholas G. Steinauer. Nicholas is the son of Nicholas and Mary Geiger Steinauer.

Nicholas was a farmer and livestock buyer. They lived on a farm 1½ miles from Steinauer. This farm had been the home of Nicholas' parents.

Three children were born to this union; Lydia(Mrs. Mart Morrissey), Ernest and Florence(Mrs. Patrick O'Grady, Mrs. John Morehead).

Nicholas died on September 13, 1909, due to a lung disease. The death occurred at home. Florence was 10 years old, Ernest was 12 and Lydia was 14 at the time of his death. Mary Agnes bought a house in Steinauer, Nebraska a few months later. She was well taken care of financially by Nicholas and suffered no hardships. She passed away on September 20, 1963, after suffering a stroke a year earlier. Both are buried in the St. Anthony's Cemetery at Steinauer, Nebraska.

A. Mary Agnes Vrtiska 1 Oct 1871 - 20 Sept 1963
Nicholas G. Steinauer 8 Feb 1872 - 13 Sept 1909
Married 5 Feb 1894

1. Lydia Steinauer 16 Oct 1894
Mart Morrissey 5 Jan 1895 - 13 April 1946
Married 9 Aug 1914

a. Claudine Morrissey 11 Feb 1915
Angelo Durante 22 May 1916 - 26 Aug 1946
Married 29 Jan 1940

1) Mary Jeanine Durante 23 Sept 1942
Bob Munoz 16 Nov 1939
Married 31 Aug 1963

a) Lisa Munoz 26 March 1964

b) Paula Munoz 16 Sept 1969

2) Laurence Durante 16 Nov 1943
Sue Ann Schatwell 4 Dec 1945
Married 20 April 1963

a) Michael Durante 23 Feb 1964

b) Dino Durante 3 Nov 1966

Laurence Durante
Sandy Neal 29 June 1946
Married 29 March 1977

Claudine Morrissey Durante
Edmund Schafer 22 August 1914
Married 11 Oct 1945

3) Phyllis Schafer 3 May 1946
Dave McMaster 28 Jan 1946
Married ___ April 1966

a) Matthew McMaster 1 Nov 1966

b) Barbara McMaster 30 May 1968

c) Patrick McMaster 13 March 1970

Phyllis Schafer McMaster
David Miller 16 Aug 1940
Married ___ June 1975

d) Edrie Miller 12 Aug 1976

4) James Schafer 30 Sept 1947
Joyce Shartwell 24 Oct 1950
Married 2 Aug 1969

a) David Schafer 27 Feb 1970

b) Larry Schafer 26 Oct 1972

5) Robert Schafer 4 Aug 1955

b. Loretta Morrissey 28 Oct 1917 - 22 Aug 1918

c. Jerome Morrissey 23 April 1919
Dorothy Howard 21 Aug 1921
Married 30 Aug 1941

1) Carolyn Morrissey 17 July 1942
Louie Travolizzi 30 Jan 1942
Married 30 Aug 1941 (Divorced)

a) Luigi Travolizzi 15 Sept 1963

b) Anthony Travolizzi 15 Feb 1965

c) Steven Travolizzi 9 Feb 1969

Carolyn Morrissey Travolizzi
Dennis Napolitan 16 April 1955
Married 7 April 1979

d. Laurence Morrissey 15 Jan 1922
Catherine Gagnon Fisher 3 June 1926
Married 19 Oct 1947

1) William Morrissey 3 Sept 1945
Joanne Feeney 9 Aug 1946
Married 19 Nov 1971

a) Deborah Morrissey 2 May 1972

b) Sandra Morrissey 17 April 1978

2. Ernest Steinauer 21 July 1896
Frances Rucker 15 July 1897 - 22 Nov 1931
Married 6 Feb 1918

a. Maureen C. Steinauer 6 Dec 1918
William G. Bovick 9 Jan 1920
Married 28 Sept 1941

1) Joni Bovick 19 Sept 1946
Gerald A. Beller 29 Oct 1942
Married 19 June 1971

a) Ryan Beller 12 Feb 1973

b) Jude Beller 9 April 1974

c) Kateri Beller 21 July 1976

d) Brent Beller 19 Nov 1979

2) Maureen Bovick 19 Dec 1947
Gordon Hauptman 11 June 1947
Married 14 Aug 1971

a) David Hauptman 17 June 1974

b) Mara Hauptman 3 Nov 1976

c) Paul Hauptman 24 Aug 1979

d) Grant(Michael) Hauptman
9 June 1981

3) Renee Bovick 3 July 1949
Joseph Masternick 27 Aug 1945
Married 29 Aug 1970

a) Trinetta Masternick(twin)
26 Dec 1972

b) Angel Masternick(twin)
26 Dec 1972 - 26 Dec 1972

c) Adam Masternick 16 Sept 1974

d) Eric Masternick 27 Dec 1975

e) Heather Masternick 14 April 1977

f) Marc Masternick 6 May 1980

g) Brad Masternick 17 Nov 1981

4) William Bovick 21 June 1950
Kimberly Hutchins 16 May 1952
Married 10 Aug 1974

a) Katie Bovick 23 July 1976

b) Scott Bovick 6 Nov 1977

c) Thomas(T.J.) Bovick 2 Feb 1980

5) Lynne Bovick 7 Aug 1952
James W. Albrecht 24 Nov 1948
Married 20 April 1974

a) Heidi Albrecht 6 March 1978

b) Christine Albrecht 11 Dec 1980

c) Robert Albrecht 21 Nov 1982

6) Janeen Bovick 25 May 1955

7) Anita Bovick 3 Jan 1957
Willis Wiedel 27 June 1952
Married 25 April 1981

a) Luke Wiedel 10 Oct 1982

b. Joan F. Steinauer 14 Oct 1920
Rex Monzingo 19 Jan 1916
Married 12 Sept 1939

1) Robert Monzingo 19 Sept 1940
Barbara Prusha 31 Oct 1942
Married 11 Feb 1961

a) Ramona Monzingo 31 Aug 1961
Scott Booton 14 Sept 1957
Married 2 Jan 1981

i. Anton Booton 2 Mar 1982

b) Germaine Monzingo 18 Aug 1962
Dan McCormick 10 May 1960
Married 2 Nov 1979

i. Alexia McCormick
5 May 1980

ii. Arron McCormick
28 Dec 1982

c) Teresa Monzingo 16 Sept 1963

d) Robert Monzingo 22 Dec 1964

e) Trent Monzingo 14 Feb 1967

2) Janet Monzingo 24 Feb 1943
Scott Ragland 9 Sept 1939
Married 10 June 1961

a) Mary Ragland 24 Aug 1966

b) Scott Ragland 27 March 1968

c) John Ragland 18 Aug 1971

3) Sharon Monzingo 10 Dec 1945
Santos Jimenez 21 Aug 1941
Married 16 Aug 1968

a) Patricia Jimenez 13 Apr 1969

b) Dionne Jimenez 17 July 1970

c) Rick Jimenez 28 July 1974

4) John(Jack) Monzingo 17 Oct 1949
Kay Andrlik 24 Dec 1950
Married 3 July 1971

a) Melissa Monzingo 20 Sept 1973

b) Amy Monzingo 13 July 1976

c) Kristen Monzingo 25 July 1981

5) Donald Monzingo 23 Sept 1951
Susan Schuessler 30 Aug 1953
Married 11 Aug 1973

a) McKenzie Monzingo 15 Feb 1980

b) Morgan Monzingo 19 Dec 1981

6) Mary Monzingo 4 Oct 1954
Jerry Goldsberry 18 Aug 1953
Married 3 May 1974

a) Ginea Goldsberry 30 Aug 1976

b) Jason Goldsberry 28 Aug 1978

c) Nicholas Goldsberry 16 April 1982

7) Laura Monzingo 29 Oct 1957
Jeffrey Richt 28 Feb 1956
Married 19 Sept 1975

a) Jessica Richt 19 May 1975

b) Joshua Richt 6 May 1977

8) Patricia Monzingo 6 June 1959
Charles Cline 6 July 1956
Married 12 Aug 1977

c. Ronald Steinauer 20 Aug 1922
Helen Atterbury 26 Aug 1925
Married 1 March 1946

1) Ronald Steinauer, Jr. 24 Aug 1946
Karen Jones 11 April 1947
2 Married 1 March 1968

a) Jody Steinauer 11 Aug 1969

b) Kelly Steinauer 17 Nov 1971

c) Thomas Steinauer 20 Sept 1973

2) David Steinauer 2 Feb 1948

3) Judith Steinauer 21 May 1950
Stephen Schlife 25 Oct 1949
Married 28 Aug 1971

a) Amy Schlife 20 Jan 1973

b) Sara Schlife 27 May 1976

c) Molly Schlife 6 Jan 1979

4) Steven Steinauer 23 June 1959

5) Kathleen Steinauer 19 Sept 1971

d. William Steinauer 16 May 1924
Lois Garber 4 Aug 1923
Married 21 Dec 1946

1) William J. Steinauer 18 Sept 1947
Judith Webb 29 Dec 1947
Married 25 Jan 1969

a) Kendra Steinauer 9 July 1979

2) Constance Steinauer 1 Jan 1951
Thomas A. Brown 11 Feb 1949
Married 5 Feb 1972

a) Jeffrey Brown 6 May 1975

b) Jason Brown 5 Feb 1978

3) Deborah Steinauer 8 April 1952
Michael Edwards 25 Oct 1949
Married 17 Aug 1974

a) Ryan Edwards 6 Aug 1982

4) Sandra Steinauer 22 Oct 1953
Dennis Decker 20 Dec 1952
Married 12 Jan 1973

a) Jeramy Decker 22 Sept 1977

5) Jill Steinauer 9 Nov 1961
Donald Heine 13 Jan 1959
Married 24 April 1982

6) Larry Steinauer 20 Sept 1964

e. Paul Nicholas Steinauer 30 Mar 1926 -
14 Dec 1977
Rose Mary Bogatz 6 Nov 1926
Married 25 Nov 1948

1) Sheila Steinauer 30 May 1949
Philip Protaskey 3 Jan 1949
Married 11 April 1970

a) Jon Protaskey 21 Nov 1975

2) Paul Steinauer 14 Oct 1950
Patricia Bluvas 17 Dec 1951
Married 8 May 1972

a) Shaene Steinauer 29 Oct 1972

b) Michelle Steinauer 22 Sept 1974

3) Richard Steinauer 11 Dec 1951

4) Susan Steinauer 23 June 1953
Mickey Carty 26 April 1951
Married 25 May 1975

a) Jesse Carty 23 April 1976

5) Mark Steinauer 13 Dec 1954
Cynthia Cameron 10 June 1957
Married 2 April 1977

6) Sharon Steinauer 10 Sept 1956

7) Judie Steinauer 7 Nov 1960

8) Nick Steinauer 30 Nov 1962

9) Michael Steinauer 25 July 1964

10) Patrick J. Steinauer 31 Aug 1966

f. Ernest L. Steinauer 19 April 1928
Mary Ann Dahmke 18 Aug 1925
Married 1 Sept 1950

1) Linda Steinauer 8 March 1951
Robert Keller 17 Aug 1951
Married 14 May 1976

a) Laura M. Keller 30 Apr 1980

2) Ernest M. Steinauer 27 Oct 1952

3) Mary Beth Steinauer 24 June 1954

4) Robert Steinauer 15 Oct 1955

5) Teresa Steinauer 29 Nov 1956
Greg Shupe
Married 25 May 1979

6) Gerald Steinauer 9 Mar 1959

g. Clement A. Steinauer 23 Aug 1929
Mary Donelan 26 May 1929
Married 18 Jan 1954

1) Karen Steinauer 24 Aug 1955

2) Daniel Steinauer 22 June 1957

3) James Steinauer 20 March 1959

4) John C. Steinauer 27 April 1963

5) Joan Steinauer 27 Nov 1970

h. Sheila Steinauer 2 Nov 1931
Bruce Schlaebitz 31 Dec 1931
Married 2 May 1956

1) Bruce Patrick Schlaebitz 28 Apr 1957
Natalie Tharnish 5 Feb 1957
Married 11 Aug 1978

a) Ranae Schlaebitz 5 Dec 1979

b) Kara Schlaebitz 24 Nov 1981

2) Christina Schlaebitz 18 Nov 1958
Charles Johnson 24 Aug 1959
Married 4 Sept 1981

a) Molly Johnson 11 Jan 1983

3) Susan Schlaebitz 9 June 1960 -
4 July 1960

4) Ted Schlaebitz 14 April 1964

5) Amy Schlaebitz 25 Jan 1968

Ernest Steinauer
Tina Ables Timmerman 23 Aug ____ - 16 Dec 1965
Married 4 Oct 1945

Ernest Steinauer
Frances Swan Aldrup 4 May 1896 - 13 March 1982
Married 4 Feb 1967

3. Florence Steinauer 8 Aug 1898
Patrick O'Grady 3 Sept 1898 - 22 Nov 1938
Married 11 Aug 1925

a. Janice O'Grady 26 April 1926
Donald Morgan 22 Dec 1917
Married 28 Oct 1946

1) Donald Morgan 8 July 1947
Mary Ann Graham 13 Feb 1945
Married 26 Oct 1969

a) Douglas Morgan 27 Sept 1970

2) Cynthia Morgan 10 July 1948
Dwight Goddard 17 Aug 1945
Married 14 Feb 1970

a) Brian Goddard 8 Mar 1971

b) Shelly Goddard 26 June 1974

3) Thomas Morgan 24 April 1950
Donna Maus 2 Jan 1958
Married 5 Sept 1979

a) Scott Lee Morgan 14 April 1983

4) Gerald Morgan 6 April 1952

5) Patrick Morgan 23 Sept 1955
Diana Lukas 9 March 1961
Married 13 Feb 1981

a) Vincent Morgan 9 July 1982

6) Gregory Morgan 26 Oct 1956

7) William Morgan 9 Sept 1959

b. Marjorie O'Grady 20 Jan 1928
Arnold Moser 12 Aug 1926
Married 12 Sept 1947

1) Linda Moser 8 March 1948
Glen Sargent 2 Sept 1948
Married 26 Oct 1968

a) Todd Sargent 15 May 1972

b) Tracey Sargent 9 Oct 1974

2) Jane Moser 28 June 1957

c. Richard O'Grady 19 Nov 1933
Sally Williamson 4 Sept 1937
Married 20 Aug 1960

1) Kathleen O'Grady 26 Dec 1966

Florence Steinauer O'Grady
John Morehead 1 Dec 1904 - 3 April 1963
Married 9 Aug 1949

## B. FRANK VRTISKA

Frank was born on March 29, 1873, on a homestead two miles east of Steinauer, Nebraska. He is the second child of Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska. Frank was baptized in the Catholic Church of Steinauer, Nebraska, and raised in the Christian Faith. He was educated in a rural school on the prairie. He loved agriculture and took great pride in maintaining a farm home and producing high quality livestock. As an outstanding raiser of chickens, he exhibited and won trophies in poultry shows and fairs in Southeastern Nebraska. In 1904, at the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri, he received a medal for first place on his exhibit of oats. Frank was very interested in community affairs and served many years on the "Wide Awake" rural school board, the Pawnee precinct election board, and the Pawnee County Fair Board.

On September 7, 1896, he was united in marriage to Lena Steinauer. They were married in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Lena was born on January 31, 1875, on the homestead 1½ miles west of Steinauer Nebraska. She is the daughter of Nicholas and Mary Ann Geiger Steinauer. She had one older brother, Nicholas G., and one twin sister, Ida. Nicholas G., her brother, was married to her husband's sister, Mary Agnes. As a child, Lena, was baptized and later confirmed in the Salem United Church of Christ. The church is located on property donated by her father and is a portion of the original homestead.

To this union three children were born; Erma(Mrs. Leo Metzger), Gertrude(Mrs. J. Robert Minick), and Ida(Mrs. Willard Loch).

Frank and Lena were both life-time residents of Pawnee County, Nebraska. They lived on a farm northwest of Pawnee City until 1943, and then moved into Pawnee City, Nebraska.

In 1968, Lena was recognized and honored by the Aksarben of Omaha, Nebraska, as a member of a pioneer family who retained

ownership of the same land for 100 years.

Frank passed away on April 11, 1953, at Pawnee City, Nebraska due to cardio vascular renal disease. Lena passed away on July 5, 1969 at Pawnee City, Nebraska, the cause of death being a general breakdown following a broken hip. Both are buried in the Pawnee City Cemetery, Pawnee City, Nebraska.

B. Frank Vrtiska 29 March 1873 - 11 April 1953
Lena Steinauer 31 Jan 1875 - 5 July 1969
Married 7 Sept 1896

1. Erma M. Vrtiska 2 Dec 1896
Leo E. Metzger 19 July 1889 - 21 March 1980
Married 9 June 1921

a. Byford Metzger 11 Sept 1925
Virginia Crom 24 Oct 1929
Married 30 Dec 1949

1) Donald Metzger 12 Aug 1951
Karen Wassung 2 Oct 1952
Married 5 Oct 1974

a) Julie Metzger 8 Jan 1977

2) Janet Metzger 22 June 1953
Jim Krause 19 Dec 1951
Married 22 March 1975

a) Matthew J. Krause 3 May 1979

b) Thomas J. Krause 30 July 1981

3) Linda Metzger 26 July 1957
Michael Ellerbee 13 March 1954
Married 17 Dec 1977

a) Alan J. Ellerbee 31 Oct 1980

b) David W. Ellerbee 21 June 1983

b. Gertrude Metzger 1 May 1928
Howard Ettleman 19 April 1919
Married 9 June 1951

1) Zoe Ann Ettleman 6 July 1952
David Hayden 6 June 1952
Married 24 June 1975

2) Wade Ettleman 14 Aug 1953
Cindy Simmerman 9 April 1952
Married 14 Sept 1973

a) Craig Ettleman 19 March 1976

Wade Ettleman
Jill Almquist 13 Dec 1957
Married 1 Oct 1978

3) Leo Ettleman 6 Sept 1954
Patsy Camerlinck 4 March 1957
Married 12 Oct 1973

a) William J. Ettleman 12 May 1974

b) Bradley Ettleman 9 April 1976

c) Brian Ettleman 28 July 1978

d) Elizabeth Ettleman 20 Oct 1982

4) Yvonne Ettleman 26 Sept 1958
Arie Berger 6 May 1942
Married 18 June 1981

2. Gertrude Vrtiska 19 Oct 1899
J. Robert Minick 1 March 1906 - 25 April 1977
Married 7 Sept 1929

3. Ida Vrtiska 19 Oct 1902 - 16 May 1979
Willard J. Loch 19 June 1900 - 2 July 1968
Married 10 Nov 1923

a. Ronald Loch 22 Aug 1925
Eleene Lewis 16 July 1930
Married 19 Oct 1952

1) Annette L. Loch 5 Dec 1953
Paul Bunge 13 Oct 1951
Married 18 Aug 1973

2) Karen Loch 24 Sept 1955
Michael Hybl 1 Aug 1953
Married 14 Aug 1976 (Divorced)

3) Mark Loch 11 Jan 1957

4) Kelly Loch 5 July 1960

5) Anita Loch 1 Oct 1961

6) Walter Loch 17 May 1965

b. Donna Loch 23 Jan 1927
Frank Weis 4 Sept 1922 - 21 March 1973
Married 2 Sept 1946

1) James E. Weis 20 Sept 1948
Ruth Everheart Underhill 20 Feb 1953
Married 13 July 1973

a) Danny Weis 17 June 1968

b) Kris Weis 14 April 1971

2) Diane Weis 19 March 1951
Robert Lerch 8 Nov 1948
Married 23 Feb 1972

a) Scott Lerch 22 April 1970

b) Catherine Lerch 22 Sept 1972 -
22 Sept 1972

c) Jesse Lerch 26 Jan 1975

d) Noah Lerch 14 Jan 1978

Donna Loch Weis
John Carroll 19 Sept 1922
Married ___ Sept 1973

c. Bessiebelle Loch 7 July 1928
Kenneth Lantz 23 Nov 1924
Married 1 May 1948

1) Trudy Lantz 14 Sept 1949
Richard Roche 7 Jan 1943
Married 25 Oct 1969

a) Jason Roche 18 March 1972

b) Justin Roche 9 Oct 1974

2) Vicki Sue Lantz 22 Aug 1953

3) Tarri Mae Lantz 24 May 1956
Arlyn Ullsperger 3 Nov 1955
Married 4 Oct 1975

a) Angela Ullsperger 24 Jan 1979

b) Anita Ullsperger 14 June 1982

4) Allen Lantz 12 May 1959

d. Earl Loch 5 Nov 1930 - 18 March 1959
Shirley Beth Ulmer 17 April 1935
Married 8 Feb 1958

1) Gregory Loch 28 Aug 1959

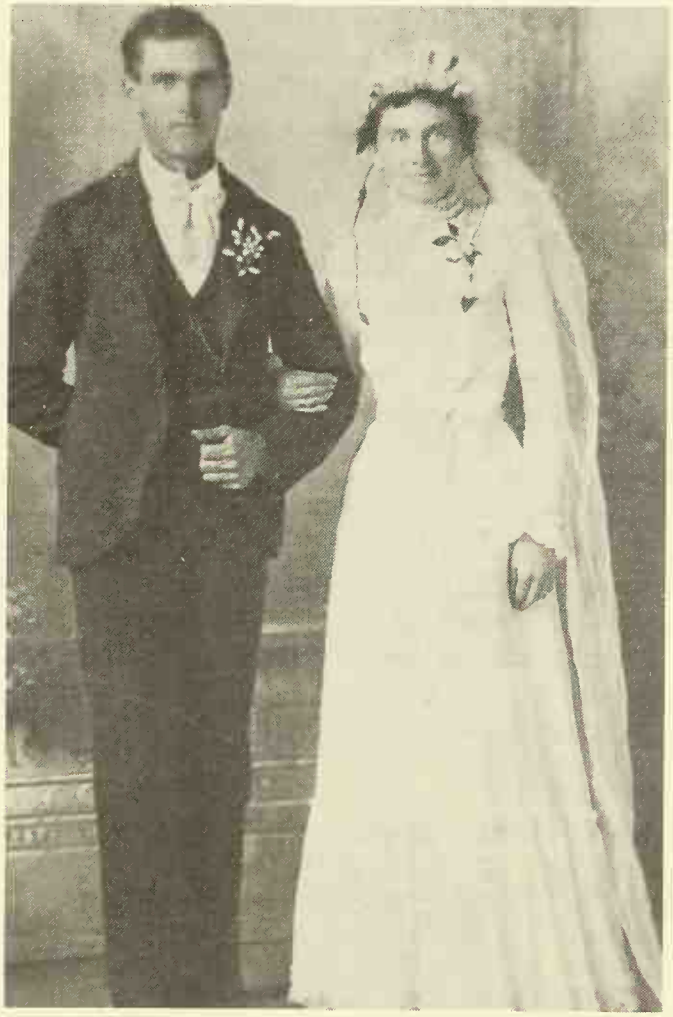
Shirley Beth Ulmer Loch
Ray Christensen _____
Married __ Jan 1962

1) Gregory Loch Christensen(adoption)
Ann Masoner _____
Married 25 June 1983

## C. FRANCES VRTISKA

Frances Agatha Vrtiska, familiarly known as Fannie, was the third in a family of ten children born to Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska. Their home was about two miles east of the village of Steinauer, Nebraska. Fannie attended school in Roadside District, Number 26, south of her parents' home.

She grew to young womanhood and at the age of 26 married Frank Duder of Table Rock, Nebraska. They were married



September 25, 1901 in St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Steinauer, Nebraska.

Frank was born in a dugout home on June 22, 1872. He was the seventh child in a family of eleven children of John and Mary Anna Celta Duder, who left Bohemia in 1865 destined for Chicago. His family worked in Chicago two years before journeying to Pawnee County, Nebraska. Frank was born the year his parents received a deed to their land claim which was 2½ miles west of Table Rock, Nebraska. He attended school in District 63, known as the Burgert School. He later served as director of that school board. The Duder family were members of St. John's Catholic Church in Table Rock, Nebraska.

Frank remained on the farm and built a new home the year of his marriage to Fannie. During his productive years, he was engaged in raising purebred cattle and hogs. They farmed with horses which was the custom at this time. Fannie was a great lover of flowers and houseplants, in addition to raising an abundance of garden vegetables. She was an Altar Society member of St. John's Church.

To this union three children were born; Mira(Mrs. Albert Miller), Lawrence, and Mabel.

They remained on the farm homesteaded by his parents until his death on December 5, 1937. Following the death of her husband, Fannie moved to Table Rock, Nebraska. She passed away on March 27, 1959. Both are buried in St. Anthony's Cemetery at Steinauer, Nebraska.

C. Frances Vrtiska 25 May 1875 - 27 March 1959
Frank Duder 22 June 1872 - 5 Dec 1937
Married 25 Sept 1901

1. Mira Duder 21 Sept 1902 - 21 March 1971
Albert Miller 9 Aug 1898
Married 21 Jan 1925

a. Mabelle Miller 13 July 1926
David Welch 12 March 1926
Married 21 April 1956

b. Marilyn Miller 2 Feb 1933 - 14 Oct 1976
Gordon Clement 19 July 1932
Married 25 May 1953

1) Gregory Clement 26 Sept 1955
Joanne Morris 7 Jan 1958
Married 10 Nov 1979

a) Wade Clement 9 June 1982

2) Grant Clement 23 Jan 1960 -
31 Oct 1976

3) Mikel Clement 21 April 1962

4) Marla Clement 15 Jan 1965

Gordon Clement
Paulette Hernandes Dunn 11 July 1944
Married 10 July 1982

Albert Miller
Catherine O'Grady Ogle 21 July 1912
Married 6 March 1973

2. Lawrence John Duder 9 June 1904 - 2 July 1981
Mary Costello 27 July 1906
Married 12 April 1937

a. Ruth Ann Duder 4 Aug 1938
Raymond Finck 21 April 1934
Married 29 Nov 1958

1) Betty Ann Finck 9 Aug 1959

2) Michael Finck 3 Dec 1961

3) Janet Finck 17 Oct 1966

4) David Finck 19 July 1969

b. John Duder 22 Dec 1939
Anita Johnson 14 May 1945
Married 16 Aug 1975

c. Lawrence Joseph Duder 25 April 1943
Janet Doyle 9 April 1944
Married 23 Aug 1969

1) Mark Duder 14 Nov 1970

2) Gregory Duder 14 Aug 1973

3) Steven Duder 20 May 1975

3. Mabel Duder 8 June 1908 - 13 Sept 1927

## D. JOSEPH F. VRTISKA

Joseph Ferdinand Vrtiska was born October 29, 1877, in Steinauer, Nebraska, the fourth child of Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska. He was born at the homestead near Steinauer, Nebraska. Joseph was the first child to be baptized from Turkey Creek Mission by Father P.F. McCarthy. This event happened on November 21, 1877. He went to school till the fifth or sixth grade, as that was all that was available then. He was a good student, especially in mathematics.

On October 22, 1902, he was married to Mary Zelenka at St. Anthony Church in Steinauer, Nebraska.

Mary, the oldest child of Albert and Barbara Raitora Zelenka, was born April 17, 1882, in Pawnee County, Nebraska. She lived in Clear Creek Community and attended school there. Mary was baptized and confirmed in the Steinauer Catholic Church. She loved flowers and gardening.

To this union six children were born; Emma(Mrs. Louie Sochor), Anna(Mrs. Tillman Finch), Albert, Julia(Mrs. Charles Blecha), Valora(Mrs. Maynard Larson), and Frank Leonard.

They started out farming seven miles west of Pawnee City, Nebraska. They also had a sawmill and steam engine threshing machine and crew. In February, 1920, they moved into Pawnee City and started an International, John Deere, and Case Implement Business. In 1945, he sold the business, but continued to work there until 1947, when he retired.

Mary became a wheel chair patient in 1946, but maintained her home. She pieced many quilts during this time.

They celebrated their Silver wedding anniversary in 1927.

Mary passed away in Pawnee City on December 2, 1948, after being in ill health for several years. The cause of death was a stroke. Joseph passed away at the Pawnee Memorial Hospital on April 5, 1966, from cardiovascular disease. Both are buried in the Pawnee City Cemetery.

D. Joseph F. Vrtiska 29 Oct 1877 - 5 April 1966
Mary Zelenka 17 April 1882 - 21 Dec 1948
Married 22 Oct 1902

1. Emma Vrtiska 23 Sept 1903 - 11 Oct 1977
Louie Sochor 28 Sept 1898 - 20 Feb 1973
Married 16 Sept 1926

a. Mary Ann Sochor 7 June 1927
C. Duane Workman 29 March 1927
Married 24 Aug 1949

1) Joyce Workman 11 Dec 1950
James Gerdes 26 March 1949
Married 27 May 1977

a) Julie Gerdes 20 March 1978

b) Jay Gerdes 18 Jan 1980

2) Nancy Workman 6 June 1957
David Crook 30 Sept 1954
Married 14 Aug 1977

a) Jason Crook 26 June 1980

b. Joseph Sochor 5 Oct 1928
Dolores Karas 22 April 1927
Married 5 Oct 1949

1) David Sochor 31 July 1950
Susan Aylor 26 March 1952
Married 6 Aug 1972

a) Joal David Sochor 1 May 1981

2) Diane Sochor 30 Nov 1952

2. Anna Vrtiska 29 Sept 1906
Tillman Finch 29 Nov 1906
Married 22 July 1930

a. Betty Finch 24 Feb 1931
Robert D. Bowhay 18 July 1931
Married 5 Sept 1953

1) Sheryl Bowhay 9 July 1954
Merlin Brooks 10 Oct 1946
Married 3 Nov 1972

a) Brandie Brooks 22 April 1973

Sheryl Bowhay Brooks
Donald Rohmeyer 17 Dec 1946
Married 24 July 1976

b) Justin Rohmeyer 4 April 1977

2) Terri Gayle Bowhay 25 May 1957
Gregory Gee 3 Nov 1950
Married 21 May 1976

a) Whitney Michelle Gee 31 Dec 1981

3) Todd Bowhay 27 Aug 1961
Julie Thomas _____
Married 3 April 1982

3. Albert Vrtiska 19 March 1909 - 9 March 1977
Lillian Luedeke 18 July 1917
Married 20 July 1934

a. Gary Vrtiska 6 Jan 1939
Doris Rethman 22 April 1939
Married 27 Feb 1960

1) Shannon Vrtiska 19 Jan 1961

2) Damian Vrtiska 25 March 1963

b. Robert Vrtiska 22 Feb 1940
Dee Anna Taft 23 Feb 1943
Married 15 Dec 1963

1) Michael Vrtiska 25 Aug 1964

c. Elizabeth Vrtiska 12 Oct 1944 - 12 Oct 1944

d. Joseph F. Vrtiska(twin) 24 July 1946
Linda Saal 13 Nov 1947
Married 12 Aug 1966

1) Amy Marie Vrtiska 5 Nov 1983

e. Kenneth A. Vrtiska(twin) 24 July 1946-
24 July 1946

4. Julia Vrtiska 2 Dec 1910
Charlie Blecha 2 June 1906 - 31 July 1967
Married 5 March 1934

a. Donald Blecha 25 Sept 1941
Bernice Herbolsheimer 23 Nov 1943
Married 29 June 1966

1) Joseph Blecha 13 May 1967

2) LaDonna Blecha 26 April 1969

3) Terrence J. Blecha 8 April 1973

b. David Blecha 23 March 1948
Susan Thompson 7 Jan 1950
Married 6 Sept 1969

1) David Blecha, Jr. 16 Feb 1970

2) Daniel Blecha 17 May 1973

c. Frances Blecha 7 March 1952
James Rayer 27 April 1953
Married 2 June 1973 (Divorced)

Frances Blecha Rayer
Monte Taylor 20 May 1954
Married 5 June 1982

5. Valora Vrtiska 6 June 1917
Lester Price 13 Sept 1913
Married 1 March 1935

a. James Price 22 Dec 1935
Mary Ann Hansen _____
Married _____

James Price
Frances Meisenheimer 21 Feb 1945
Married 24 April 1966

1) Christina Price 8 June 1972

2) Candace Price 31 Oct 1973

Valora Vrtiska Price
Maynard(Mel) Larson 13 June 1918
Married 25 Jan 1951

6. Frank Leonard Vrtiska 20 Sept 1919
Nina Marie Flood 14 Sept 1922
Married 9 Jan 1944

a. Stephan J. Vrtiska 1 Aug 1944
Alice Jenine Timmerman 15 Nov 1944
Married 29 March 1966

1) Dawn Michele Vrtiska 31 July 1968

2) Erica Marie Vrtiska 10 April 1971

3) Debora Norene Vrtiska 8 April 1973

4) Bridget Ann Vrtiska 6 April 1975

5) Lindsey Jenine Vrtiska 30 May 1977

6) Nina Mindy Vrtiska 22 Nov 1978

7) Stephanie Vrtiska 29 June 1981

8) Monica Vrtiska 26 Sept 1983

b. Timothy Francis Vrtiska 5 April 1950
Kerry Harrison 9 April 1951
Married 18 Nov 1972 (Divorced)

1) Frank Joseph Vrtiska 3 Nov 1976

2) Alexander Harrison Vrtiska 7 May 1981

Timothy Francis Vrtiska
Christina Joy Flaxel 5 June 1957
Married 9 Sep 1983

c. Roxanne Leslie Vrtiska 26 Oct 1957
Wallace Geigle, Jr. 25 March 1957
Married 20 Dec 1975 (Divorced)

1) Whitney Marie Geigle 4 Dec 1977

2) Roman Matthew Geigle 8 Dec 1979

## E. RUDOLPH VRTISKA

Rudolph Blaze Vrtiska was born February 3, 1880, on his parents homestead, 1½ miles east of Steinauer, Nebraska. He is the fifth child of Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska. Rudolph was baptized and attended St. Anthony's Church at Steinauer, Nebraska. He attended the local country school.

On May 1, 1906, he married Mary Alice Lewis. They were

married in St. Anthony's Catholic Church at Steinauer, Nebraska.

Mary Alice Lewis was born on March 19, 1887, the daughter of William and Josephine Badle Lewis.

After their marriage, they lived and farmed about 6 miles northwest of Pawnee City, Nebraska.

To this union six children were born; Nellie(Mrs. Harold Borland), Joseph Lewis, Florence(Mrs. James Moore), Paul, Rudolph, Velma(Mrs. H.E. Yarpe), and Jesse Edward.

Mary Alice died September 16, 1959, with heart problems. After a few years, Rudolph went to Council Bluffs, Iowa and made his home with his daughter, Velma Yarpe. His death occured on February 24, 1968, after a bout with pneumonia. They are both buried in the St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery at Steinauer, Nebraska.

E. Rudolph Blaze Vrtiska 3 Feb 1880 - 24 Feb 1968
Mary Alice Lewis 19 March 1887 - 16 Sept 1959
Married 1 May 1906

1. Nellie Vrtiska 13 March 1907
Russell A. Grothe 13 Jan 1908 - 20 April 1966
Married 8 Oct 1929

a. Russell J. Grothe 24 Aug 1932
Rita Barker 6 Dec 1935
Married 13 July 1954

1) Laura Grothe 26 Jan 1955
Dale Johnson _____
Married 24 May 1975

2) Russell B. Grothe 20 May 1958
Patti Strong 3 Dec 1936
Married 8 Dec 1982

3) Scott Grothe 22 Aug 1959

b. Mary Alice Grothe 10 Apr 1935 - 10 Apr 1935

c. Nellie Jeanine Grothe 18 July 1936
Herman Vampola 27 Oct 1935
Married 18 June 1956

1) James H. Vampola 13 Feb 1957
Cheri Holmes 22 Sept 1961
Married 11 Feb 1975

a) Angela Vampola 12 March 1976

2) Elizabeth Vampola 6 Jan 1957
Stephen Weis 6 Jan 1956
Married 17 June 1975

a) Steven Weis 6 Oct 1976

3) Carla Jean Vampola 26 Jan 1958
Bernard Kiscoon 20 Oct 1956
Married 2 Dec 1978

a) Melissa Kiscoon 19 May 1979

b) Brian Kiscoon 25 Sept 1980

c) Rachel Ann Kiscoon 20 Aug 1982

d. John Grothe 20 April 1940
Roberta Peres _____
Married 13 Oct 1962

1) John Grothe 6 Oct 1963

2) Robert Grothe 16 March 1965

John Grothe
Roberta Walkup 13 June 1938
Married 5 Sept 1981

e. Carol Janice Grothe 7 Mar 1942 - 16 Apr 1943

Nellie Vrtiska Grothe
Harold Borland 8 Aug 1907
Married 15 Aug 1964

a. Joyce Borland(stepdaughter) 21 Sept 1942
Dennis McGraw 29 July 1938
Married 26 Oct 1968

1) Timothy McGraw 17 May 1969

2) Katherine McGraw 17 Nov 1974

2. Joseph Lewis Vrtiska 19 Mar 1908 - 17 May 1971
Glenda Hays 11 April 1911
Married 9 Jan 1935

a. Joseph W. Vrtiska 5 Feb 1937 - 1 June 1950

b. Richard Vrtiska 29 July 1938 - 1 June 1950

c. Arlene Vrtiska 19 June 1942
Leon Craig 24 Sept 1940
Married 7 June 1969

1) Julie Craig 16 Aug 1974

2) Kelli Craig 13 Feb 1978

3) Adam Craig 7 June 1979

d. Marvin Vrtiska 28 Aug 1943
Clara Gilliland Fisher 21 Nov 1945
Married 23 Dec 1977

1) Linda Gilliland 3 April 1961

2) Robert Fisher 3 Nov 1963

3) Lisa Fisher 4 March 1965

4) Susan Fisher 16 Jan 1969

e. David A. Vrtiska 11 March 1946

3. Florence Vrtiska 25 Jan 1913
Virgil H. Hays 11 May 1907
Married 30 Dec 1932

a. Suzanne Hays 6 May 1933
Kenneth Avery 22 July 1931
Married _____ 1950

1) Judy Avery 25 Feb 1952
Paul Bishop II 14 May 1950
Married 20 Aug 1977

a) Paul Bishop III 24 Dec 1979

b) Jessica Bishop 21 July 1983

2) John Avery 25 Nov 1954

Suzanne Hays Avery
Charles Burnham 4 Oct 1920
Married 18 Oct 1968

b. Sheila Hays 5 Aug 1937
Walter Moberg 23 Dec 1935
Married 2 Nov 1956

1) Walter Moberg 1 July 1957

2) Ronald Moberg 30 Aug 1959

c. Mary Joyce Hays 20 Oct 1939
Robert Hamilton 15 June 1932
Married 5 Sept 1958

1) Ronald Hamilton 20 Sept 1959

2) Linda Hamilton 3 Dec 1961
Ted White
Married 14 March 1981

a) Brian White 15 April 1982

3) David Hamilton 18 April 1963

Florence Vrtiska Hays
James H. Moore 9 Dec 1924
Married __ March 1952

d. James P. Moore 25 May 1953
Kathyrn Stork 26 Aug 1952
Married 9 Sept 1972

1) James Moore 13 May 1976

2) Rebecca Moore 10 Jan 1982

e. Gayle Moore 27 April 1954
Gary Gibilisco 10 Aug 1951
Married 23 Nov 1974

1) Kerri Gibilisco 1 March 1975

2) Gregory Gibilisco 25 May 1978

4. Paul Rudolph Vrtiska 17 May 1915 - 13 Jan 1956
Virginia Ballard 22 Nov 1921 - 1 Jan 1971
Married 25 July 1947

a. Vicki Vrtiska 24 April 1948
Gary Wahl 6 Sept 1941
Married 17 July 1966

1) Wendy Wahl 28 Oct 1967

2) Tracy Wahl 10 Jan 1971

b. Timothy Vrtiska 15 Feb 1949

c. Sharon Vrtiska 17 May 1952
Steven Billesbach 27 Dec 1948
Married 19 Nov 1971

1) Andrew Billesbach 6 May 1978

5. Velma Vrtiska 21 Dec 1919
Sam Portera 18 June 1918
Married 4 Sept 1939

a. Jolene Portera 5 Dec 1940
Thomas Todd 26 July 1933
Married 5 Dec 1964

1) Andrea Todd 11 Oct 1965

2) Elizabeth Todd 28 July 1968

b. Jayne Portera 14 March 1944
John Moran 13 April 1944
Married 25 April 1964

1) Monica Moran 7 Dec 1964

2) Shawn Moran 20 Nov 1967

Velma Vrtiska Portera
H.E. Yarpe 13 Dec 1920 - 8 Feb 1979
Married 19 Dec 1948

c. April Yarpe 1 April 1952
Tado Nishioka 16 March 1938
Married 31 July 1971

d. Michael Yarpe 25 July 1953

e. Paul Yarpe 11 April 1959

6. Jesse Edward Vrtiska 26 Aug 1923
Charlotte Loreen Rogers 31 Aug 1926
Married 15 May 1943

a. Linda Vrtiska 15 Nov 1943
William Thompson 29 Jan 1942
Married 11 April 1963

1) Travis Thompson 21 Feb 1969

b. Beverly Vrtiska 19 Jan 1945
James L. Mayabb 12 Oct 1948
Married 30 Dec 1967

1) Jessica Mayabb 10 Nov 1968

Beverly Vrtiska Mayabb
Robert Tompkins 16 July 1946
Married 4 Dec 1972

c. Jesse Edward Vrtiska 1 Jan 1946
Pamela Moore 26 June 1947
Married 29 April 1967

1) Lori Vrtiska 15 Nov 1968

Jesse Edward Vrtiska
Dianne Woole _____ - 7 Oct 1974
Married _____

d. Terry Gene Vrtiska 16 Aug 1947
JoEllen Munsinger 18 Feb 1949
Married 20 Oct 1965

1) Leslie Vrtiska 10 Oct 1966

Terry Gene Vrtiska
Sandy Catlin 12 Feb 1949
Married 4 Oct 1972

1) Terry James Vrtiska 10 Feb 1978

e. Theresa Vrtiska 6 Feb 1951

## F. JOHN VRTISKA

John Alois Vrtiska, the sixth child of Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska, was born on November 5, 1883, on a farm 1½ miles east of Steinauer, Nebraska. He attended school in Steinauer, Nebraska. John grew to manhood on his father's homestead and lived there until the time of his marriage.

On February 12, 1980, at Steinauer, Nebraska, he was united in marriage to Alma Emma Zelenka, the daughter of Albert and Barbara Raitora Zelenka.

Alma was born on a farm about 5 miles north of Pawnee City, Nebraska, on December 14, 1887. She is the youngest in a family of four girls.

After their marriage, they moved to a farm near Washington, Kansas, where they lived for one year. They then moved to a farm at Violet, Nebraska, and this was their home for 42 years. In 1951, they moved to a farm north of Pawnee City, Nebraska.

Three children were born to this union; Alice(Mrs. Marvin Hays), Elmer, and Vester.

On February 12, 1958, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

John passed away on August 23, 1960, in Pawnee City, Nebraska, from leukemia. After his death, Alma moved into Pawnee City. She passed away on January 24, 1972, in Pawnee City, Nebraska, due to heart failure. Both are buried in the Pawnee City, Cemetery, Pawnee City, Nebraska.

F. John Alois Vrtiska 5 Nov 1883 - 23 Aug 1960
Alma Emma Zelenka 14 Dec 1887 - 24 Jan 1972
Married 12 Feb 1908

1. Alice Vrtiska 17 Nov 1908
Marvin F. Hays 18 Feb 1909
Married 6 Oct 1931

a. Robert F. Hays 6 Sept 1932
Phyllis Musiel 4 Sept 1938
Married 22 June 1957

1) Steven E. Hays 4 Feb 1958

2) Susan Hays 12 July 1962

3) Michael M. Hays 18 Nov 1964

4) Theodore R. Hays 6 April 1971

b. Joan M. Hays 3 July 1936
Merrill D. Findlay 26 Jan 1931
Married 12 Dec 1954

1) Teresa Findlay 15 June 1956
Louis Gallardo 28 June 1949
Married 31 July 1976

2) Holly J. Findlay 13 Dec 1957
Wesley DeBrosse 29 Dec 1955
Married 13 June 1979

3) Angela Findlay 7 Oct 1960

4) John Findlay 1 Oct 1966

2. Elmer W. Vrtiska 13 April 1911
Marjorie Steiner 30 Sept 1917
Married 20 Aug 1938

a. Barbara Vrtiska 5 Feb 1939
Dan Hopper 7 Dec 1937
Married 10 Aug 1958

1) Jerry Hopper(twin) 18 Jan 1960
Karen Hill 14 Jan 1958
Married 28 Feb 1982

2) Terry Hopper(twin) 18 Jan 1960

b. Janet Vrtiska 29 April 1947

c. JoEllen Vrtiska 2 July 1952

3. Vernon Vester Vrtiska 31 Jan 1925
Vernice Ann Hill 20 Aug 1934
Married 22 July 1961

## G. ANTON PHILLIP VRTISKA

Anton Phillip Vrtiska, the seventh child and youngest son of Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska, was born on October 17, 1887, at Steinauer, Nebraska. Anton attended school for eight years at District 26 in Steinauer, Nebraska.

On July 20, 1914, he was united in marriage to Emma Magdalena Obrist, the oldest child of John and Mary Steinauer Obrist.

Emma was born on August 31, 1893, at Cold Point, a former vicinity near Steinauer, Nebraska.

Anton and Emma lived on and farmed the land which his father had homesteaded.

Eleven children were born to this union; Donata(Mrs. James Prendergast), Adrian, Madeline(Mrs. Lloyd Matthews), Mary Theresa(Mrs. Norman Rinne), John Anthony, Charles, Dorothy (Mrs. Linus Gunzelman), Margaret(Sr. Mary Walter Vrtiska), Anthony, William Michael, and Betty Ann(Mrs. Edward Karbowski, Mrs. Gary Bedea).

On May 30, 1946, Anton died of cancer at St. Joseph's Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska. Due to a stroke in 1973, Emma's health began to fail. In March of 1979, she became a resident at the Pawnee Manor in Pawnee City, Nebraska. She passed away on November 11, 1981, at Pawnee City, Nebraska, leaving 116 direct descendants. Both are buried in St. Anthony's Cemetery, Steinauer, Nebraska.

Here is a tribute that was written in her behalf.

A TRIBUTE TO GRANDMA VRTISKA

It is very hard to say all that could be or should be said about Grandma, but I think we should remember, although the tears fall freely, this is an occasion of great being with God, with Grandpa, Uncle Tony and others she loved. More importantly, be glad for the peace she has found; that peace, which only comes from being with God. Ask God in His mercy, to send us a portion of that peace to ease the sorrow that is now in our hearts.

Know too, that on November 11, when God smiled, held out His hands and said, "Emma, come home," that Grandma went with much to be said in her behalf.

I think we should pray today, and in the future, for one another. By doing so, each of us can keep faith with the legacy of love she left us. Grandma left us not only an example of love, but also with examples of humility, patience, wisdom, fortitude, and a deep reverence of God.

Children were attracted to her, and maybe it was because these qualities were easily seen through the innocent eyes of a child. In addition, Grandma left us with many beautiful memories. This lady, simple and good, yet so grand, always had a smile in her eyes and soft words on her lips. She had a fragrance of warm cookies or fresh bread, and her

dress was covered by a big apron, which invited a hug and was perfect for wiping of a tear.

Each of us has our own special memories. Now that we are no longer faced with the harsh reality of a small, fragile lady lying in a bed, Grandma is freed by our remembering.

Free to walk with Grandpa, she can scold her children or hug them; she can sit and patch overalls; she can feed her kitties on the porch; she can be back in her garden making her flowers grow; and she can hold her babies on her lap and teach them to patty-cake.

She is free when we remember and we have the freedom to choose the time and place, to seek the warmth of our memories, whenever we wish. Then too, remember that having shared time with Grandma, has made our lives a little brighter, and that having known her, has made each of us a better person.

The loss of a loved one is a cross we must bear in life. Grandma's life was filled with crosses, but she, in her own uncomplaining way, only tried harder with each new cross. Seek comfort in the thought that God, in His justice, has rewarded her generously for the keeping of His commandments and the way she lived His law of love.

-----This was written and presented by Kathleen Gunzelman Conradson, November 14, 1981, at the Mass of Resurrection, for Emma Vrtiska.

G. Anton Phillip Vrtiska 17 Oct 1887 - 30 May 1946
Emma Magdalena Obrist 31 Aug 1893 - 11 Nov 1981
Married 20 July 1914

1. Donata Vrtiska 7 Nov 1915
James F. Prendergast 22 March 1911
Married 28 Oct 1940

2. Adrian Joseph Vrtiska 29 Oct 1916
Leona Divis 31 May 1920
Married 25 Oct 1939

a. Joyce Ann Vrtiska 19 Dec 1940
Francis Westerman 2 Feb 1937
Married 19 Sept 1959

1) Dennis Vrtiska 10 April 1958

2) Kathyrn Westerman 5 July 1960
Leo Jindra 27 June 1951
Married 3 May 1980 (Divorced)

a) Christina Jindra 19 Jan 1981

3) Sharon Westerman 5 Sept 1962
Jeff Jacobsen 1 Jan 1957
Married 15 May 1981

a) Stacey Jacobsen 31 Jan 1981

4) Conrad Westerman 19 Aug 1964

5) Donald Westerman 26 Oct 1966

6) Dolores Westerman 4 Dec 1967

7) Charles Westerman 2 June 1970

b. Daniel J. Vrtiska 2 June 1942
Janice Bolden 15 June 1948
Married _____1966 (Divorced)

1) Daniel J. Vrtiska 26 Dec 1966

2) Robert L. Vrtiska 31 March 1968

Daniel J. Vrtiska
Mildred Reinke 27 Feb 1952
Married 3 July 1970

3) Lisa Vrtiska 22 Aug 1974

4) James Vrtiska 23 Jan 1976

5) Douglas Vrtiska 4 Sept 1978

c. Laurence Anthony Vrtiska 20 June 1943
Rose Ann Renner 19 April 1948
Married 6 Sept 1969

1) Laurie Vrtiska 7 Nov 1970

2) Laurence A. Vrtiska 26 June 1972

3) Thomas A. Vrtiska 27 Aug 1979

4) Matthew Ryan Vrtiska 15 May 1983

d. Raymond Charles Vrtiska 14 Jan 1945
Lee Helzer 25 Feb 1952
Married 31 July 1981

e. Kenneth Edward Vrtiska 2 May 1947
Madgel Chadler _____
Married 18 Sept 1970 (Divorced)

1) Nicholos J. Vrtiska 13 March 1971

Kenneth Edward Vrtiska
Carolyn Seier 28 July 1953
Married 23 June 1979

f. Patrick Phillip Vrtiska 3 Dec 1948
Diana Median 23 March 1950
Married 24 March 1973

1) Tina Vrtiska 27 Sept 1979

2) Erica Vrtiska 6 June 1981

3) Nathan Allen Vrtiska 23 Aug 1983

g. Jerome Michael Vrtiska 2 Jan 1951
Nancy Young 13 Feb 1954
Married 8 July 1972 (Divorced)

h. Kathryn Lucille Vrtiska 13 June 1954 -
11 Jan 1955

i. Deborah Kathyrn Vrtiska 3 March 1956
Dennis Lindstedt 13 June 1954
Married 19 Sept 1975 (Divorced)

j. William Joseph Vrtiska 27 Dec 1963

3. Madeline Vrtiska 27 Oct 1917
Lloyd E. Matthews 16 April 1922
Married 23 Sept 1950

a. Thomas P. Matthews 17 March 1952
Debra Ann Stephens 10 May 1959
Married 4 June 1977

1) Ann Marie Matthews 16 April 1980

b. Paul J. Matthews(adopted) 22 July 1953

4. Mary Theresa Vrtiska 11 Oct 1919
Norman N. Rinne 7 Aug 1919
Married 28 Nov 1940

a. Donald Dean Rinne 6 July 1941
JoAnn Kunc 4 Jan 1942
Married 30 July 1961

1) Carla Rinne 9 Feb 1962
Charles Mortenson 31 July 1962
Married 2 Oct 1981

a) Nicole Mortenson 26 Sept 1980

2) Jeffery L. Rinne 16 March 1963

3) Lisa Rinne 17 Sept 1964

4) Julie Rinne 14 April 1969

b. Russell Rinne 28 April 1942

c. John Rinne 19 March 1944
Mary Inglis 20 Nov 1947
Married 20 Aug 1966

1) Jason Rinne 6 May 1975

2) Jared Rinne 18 Jan 1980

d. William Rinne 12 March 1945
Janice Johnson 29 Oct 1947
Married 30 July 1967

1) Jeramie W. Rinne 13 Nov 1970

2) Jillayne Rinne 27 April 1975

e. Rosemary Rinne 3 June 1951
Jay Wischmeier 3 June 1949
Married 14 Aug 1971

1) Stephanie Wischmeier 30 Jan 1974

2) Travis Wischmeier 29 Nov 1979

3) Lindsay Wischmeier 4 Feb 1980

5. John Anthony Vrtiska 15 July 1921
Norma Jean Krikava 24 Oct 1927
Married 28 March 1948

a. John Norman Vrtiska 6 Nov 1948
Janet Marshall 21 Sept 1949
Married 28 Dec 1970

1) Alison Vrtiska 23 Dec 1975

2) Jeffrey Vrtiska 12 Sept 1978

b. James Leon Vrtiska 19 Oct 1949
Kathy Thogmartin 6 May 1953
Married 31 July 1971

1) James A. Vrtiska 23 April 1973

2) Kristi Vrtiska 2 April 1975

3) Kari Vrtiska 23 May 1977

c. Gregory Vrtiska 4 Dec 1951
Betsy Wyatt 16 Feb 1952
Married 19 June 1976

1) Andrew Vrtiska 3 April 1977

2) Arrin Ann Vrtiska 17 Nov 1980

d. Cindy Vrtiska 11 Nov 1954
Richard Seidner 12 Sept 1954
Married 4 April 1980

e. Lisa Vrtiska 9 Oct 1959

6. Charles Joseph Vrtiska 14 Aug 1924
Clara Ann Krikava 1 Aug 1929
Married 5 June 1948

a. Mary Vrtiska 21 April 1949
Robert Theasmeyer 22 June 1948
Married 2 Aug 1969

1) Christy Theasmeyer 9 Jan 1971

2) Laurie Theasmeyer 1 Aug 1973

b. Elaine Vrtiska 22 Sept 1950
John Essam 30 July 1948
Married 26 Sept 1970

1) Michael Essam 21 Oct 1972

2) Benjamin Essam 27 Aug 1975

3) Timothy Essam 1 Jan 1978

c. David Vrtiska 27 March 1952
Judy Erdmann 5 July 1958
Married 23 Sept 1978

1) Angela Vrtiska 3 July 1980

2) Jennifer Vrtiska 10 Aug 1983

d. Ronald J. Vrtiska 6 Aug 1953
Vicki Frantz 17 July 1956
Married 5 Oct 1976

1) Scott Vrtiska 4 Aug 1978

2) Michael Vrtiska 12 Aug 1980

e. Diane Vrtiska 4 May 1956
Gail Barnard 15 Feb 1955
Married 4 Feb 1978

1) Adam Barnard 28 Aug 1980

2) Christopher Barnard 14 July 1982

f. Janelle Vrtiska 19 Nov 1957
Mark Garrison 22 June 1956
Married 29 Dec 1978

7. Dorothy Vrtiska 5 March 1926
Linus(Tex) Gunzelman 5 Jan 1925
Married 10 June 1948

a. Linda Gunzelman 4 July 1949
Eugene Neukam 7 Jan 1947
Married 6 June 1970

1) Jill Neukam 2 July 1976

2) Emma Neukam 30 Jan 1980

b. Kathleen Gunzelman 3 Feb 1951
Douglas Conradson 21 Oct 1947
Married 16 July 1971

1) Matthew Conradson 27 July 1975

2) Mary Conradson 31 March 1977

c. Jeanette Gunzelman 1 July 1953
John Fisher 25 March 1951
Married 26 May 1972 (Divorced)

1) Michele Fisher(twin) 2 Sept 1971

2) Shannon Fisher(twin) 2 Sept 1971

d. Constance Gunzelman 25 Jan 1955
William J. Blake 27 Aug 1952
Married 4 Oct 1974

1) Timothy Blake 13 Oct 1980

2) Jonathan Blake 6 Feb 1984

e. James A. Gunzelman 10 Sept 1956
Theresa Lenczowski 18 June 1959
Married 12 Sept 1981

f. Peter J. Gunzelman 11 Aug 1958
Marcia Metzger 19 May 1955
Married 28 Aug 1982

g. Nancy Gunzelman 2 June 1961

h. Mark A. Gunzelman 19 Dec 1963

i. Margaret Gunzelman 14 Oct 1965

8. Margaret Louise(Peggy) Vrtiska 4 July 1928
Convent (Sr. Mary Walter OSB)

9. Anthony Francis Vrtiska 26 Nov 1931 - 23 Dec 1976
Patricia Rudder 31 Aug 1936
Married 28 March 1952

a. Anthony P. Vrtiska 7 Nov 1952

b. Nicholas L. Vrtiska 15 Feb 1955
Sharon Evers 24 June 1957
Married 13 Nov 1976

1) Corey A. Vrtiska 5 April 1977

c. Renee Ann Vrtiska 2 Nov 1957
Roy Christlieb 8 Oct 1958
Married 7 April 1978 (Divorced)

Renee Ann Vrtiska Christlieb
Richard Vogel 3 Sept 1958
Married 28 March 1981

d. Joni Vrtiska 26 Feb 1959

e. Yvette Vrtiska 20 Sept 1962
Kent Hippen 26 Nov 1961
Married 14 Sept 1980

f. Ty Lee Vrtiska 4 Oct 1964

10. William Michael(Mike) Vrtiska 4 Sept 1934
Carol Cripe 1 Jan 1939
Married 18 Nov 1961

a. Rhonda Vrtiska 22 July 1962
Daniel Pinkerton 23 July 1956
Married 22 Oct 1982

1) Matthew Pinkerton 14 March 1983

b. Mark P. Vrtiska 21 Dec 1963

c. Chris T. Vrtiska 10 July 1965

11. Betty Ann Vrtiska 28 March 1937
Edward A. Karbowski 4 Nov 1934 - 12 Oct 1975
Married 9 June 1956

a. Charles J. Karbowski 30 April 1957
Renee Kent 3 Aug 1959
Married 10 June 1978

1) Amanda Karbowski 25 Nov 1982

b. Michael E. Karbowski 9 Feb 1959
Karen Kuhlmann 21 Oct 1961
Married 12 July 1980

c. Larry J. Karbowski 25 Nov 1960

d. William A.(Tony) Karbowski 16 Feb 1963

Betty Ann Vrtiska Karbowski
Gary Bedea 28 Sept 1939
Married 28 Sept 1973

## H. JOSEPHINE VRTISKA

Josephine Vrtiska, the eighth child of Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska was born June 23, 1890, on her parent's farm 1½ miles east of Steinauer, Nebraska.

Josephine grew up and attended school there.

On September 3, 1913, she was married to Wenzl Seidl, the son of Wenzl and Mary Ullman Seidl. Wenzl was born August 1, 1889 on a farm 3½ miles north of Steinauer.

One child, Virginia(Mrs. James Tate), was born to this couple.

Josephine and Wenzl later lived in Omaha, Nebraska, and then moved to Lincoln, Nebraska.

Wenzl died February 11, 1956, and Josephine died April 21, 1982. Both died in Lincoln, and are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The following newspaper clipping was supplied by Dorothy Gunzelman:

"Wenzl J. Seidl and Josephine T. Vrtiska were united in the bonds of matrimony by Rev. Jos. Ress at St. Anthony's Catholic church, in Steinauer, Wednesday morning, September 3rd, 1913. Gabius W. Seidl acted as best man and Emma Vrtiska as bridesmaid. After the wedding ceremony the couple departed for Lincoln where they will spend a day at the fair, then leave for Denver and Colorado Springs. After two weeks honeymoon they will start housekeeping in Tecumseh.

The groom is a partner of the firm of Seidl Bros. Pharmacy Co., of Tecumseh, and is a promising young business man.

The bride is the daughter of Joseph Vrtiska and wife lifing east of town and was one of Pawnee counties successful teachers and a young lady of many accomplishments. The Star extends congratulations."

H. Josephine Vrtiska 23 June 1890 - 21 April 1982
Wenzl J. Seidl 1 Aug 1889 - 11 Feb 1956
Married 3 Sept 1913

1. Virginia Seidl 18 Oct 1916
James D. Tate 7 May 1916
Married 4 Aug 1945

a. Susan Tate 21 Dec 1946
Randall Hallman 17 Sept 1945
Married 11 April 1970

# I. EMMA VRTISKA

Emma Vrtiska was born at the Vrtiska Homestead east of Steinauer, Nebraska, February 19, 1893. She is the ninth of ten children born to Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska.

On January 9, 1918, Emma was united in marriage to Raymond D. Good. They were married by Father Thomas Barden at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Raymond D. Good was born at Baileyville, Kansas, on July 9, 1892. He is the son of Samuel Valentine and Louise Magee Good. Raymond is one of six children.

Raymond, an electrician, worked for the city of Tecumseh, Nebraska, for over 30 years. He was a charter member of the first American Legion Post in Nebraska, which was located at Tecumseh. Raymond portrayed Uncle Sam in many civic parades. He was also a volunteer fireman for over 10 years for the city of Tecumseh. Emma was an American Legion Auxiliary member.

Six sons were born to this union; Raymond Anthony, Kenneth

Leo, Harold Lloyd, Robert Eugene, Ralph James, and Boyd Burton. Both Emma and Raymond were proud that their six sons had served their country in time of war.

Emma and Raymond cultivated prize roses and Raymond for many years, awaited the yearly blooming of their huge Cereuis, the night-blooming cactus.

They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in January of 1968, while Raymond was confined to a nursing home in Crete, Nebraska.

Raymond died of emphysema at Crete, Nebraska, on August 23, 1968. Emma died of heart related disorders at Creston, Iowa, on November 23, 1975. They and their son, Raymond Anthony, are buried in the Tecumseh Cemetery, Tecumseh, Nebraska.

I. Emma Vrtiska 19 Feb 1893 - 23 Nov 1975
Raymond D. Good 9 July 1892 - 23 Aug 1968
Married 9 Jan 1918

1. Raymond Anthony Good 28 June 1918 - 30 Sept 1946
Anna Schroeder 24 Aug 1919
Married 28 June 1939

a. Lois Good 26 Sept 1940
Oakley Korbelik 12 March 1937
Married 2 June 1957

1) Sherolyn Korbelik 11 Nov 1960

2) Bruce Korbelik 4 Oct 1963
Anita Nelson
Married 14 May 1983 (Divorced)

Anna Schroeder Good
Herschel Hansen 30 March 1924
Married 25 May 1966

2. Kenneth Leo Good 21 Sept 1920
Rosie Brzon 26 Feb 1926
Married 18 Sept 1947

3. Harold Lloyd Good 9 April 1923
Elsie Dangberg 21 Aug 1922
Married 21 Aug 1948

a. Hal Ray Good 28 June 1949

b. Constance Good 21 March 1952

Harold Lloyd Good
Helen Jackson Wilson _____
Married _____

4. Robert Eugene Good 20 April 1925
Mercedes Elaine McAleer 3 Nov 1927
Married 2 Aug 1947

a. Stephen R. Good 4 June 1948

b. Daniel M. Good 17 April 1950
Patrica Overton 17 Nov 1961
Married 30 Aug 1980

1) Maleah Rene Good 24 Aug 1983

c. Regina K. Good 7 March 1952
Charles J. George 28 Dec 1951
Married 24 May 1982

d. Suzanne C. Good 25 Nov 1953
Larry Moores 15 May 1952
Married 7 April 1973

1) Makayla Elaine Moores 1 April 1976

2) Shawn Mitchell Moores 2 Feb 1979

e. Robert J. Good 23 Nov 1957
Ann Christine Brauns 24 Oct 1959
Married 16 Aug 1980

f. David E. Good 11 Nov 1958
Sonja Selufski 10 Feb 1961
Married 8 Dec 1979

1) Sheila Marie Good 22 May 1981

David E. Good
Lisa A. Plant 27 June 1961
Married 12 Feb 1982

g. Christel Godd 7 Feb 1961
Brad Morrison 25 Sept 1960
Married 27 March 1982

h. Scott G. Good 8 Feb 1965

i. Eric S. Good 1 Feb 1968

5. Ralph J. Good 9 Aug 1927
LaDonna Hirst 6 Feb 1930
Married 28 Dec 1952

a. Carol Good 23 Dec 1955
Michael R. Pugh 27 July 1952
Married 23 April 1983

b. Richard J. Good 26 March 1958

c. Linda Lee Good 6 Feb 1960
Wilborn L. Maywald 19 June 1953
Married 25 Sept 1982

d. James R. Good 6 Jan 1965

6. Boyd B. Good 3 April 1930
Ilene Thiltges 8 Feb 1924
Married 26 June 1954

a. William A. Good 11 June 1955

b. Mark S. Good 30 Nov 1956

c. Barbara S. Good 26 June 1958
Alan C. Stokes 23 Nov 1953
Married 16 Oct 1982

1) Stephanie Stokes 28 Nov 1983

d. Gloria(Gigi) A. Good 14 Oct 1960

## J. AGNES A. VRTISKA

Agnes A. Vrtiska, the tenth child of Joseph and Theresa Wenzl Vrtiska, was born two miles east of Steinauer in Pawnee County, Nebraska. She was born on November 24, 1895. Agnes attended school near her home and graduated from Steinauer High School.

On July 25, 1918, Agnes was united in marriage to Raymond Churchill. They lived at Sterling, Nebraska, after their marriage. In 1923, they moved to Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Three children were born to this union; Howard, Lucille (Mrs. Harold J. Schmidt), and Rita(Mrs. Ralph Lutcavish).

Agnes died from cancer on February 13, 1938, while living in Tecumseh, Nebraska. She is buried in the St. Anthony's Cemetery at Steinauer, Nebraska. Raymond is still living.

J. Agnes Vrtiska 24 Nov 1895 - 13 Feb 1938
Raymond Churchill 27 April 1901
Married 25 July 1918

1. Howard Churchill 29 Sept 1918 - 8 Jan 1982
   Lorene Pientka 5 July 1929
   Married 22 Nov 1954

   a. Paula Churchill 7 Feb 1956

   b. Carla Churchill 25 Oct 1957
      David Atkins 28 Aug 1956
      Married 13 Aug 1976

      1) Jessica Atkins 3 June 1981

      2) Nathan Atkins 22 June 1983

   c. LeAnn Churchill 30 Nov 1959
      Richard Burianek 19 Sept 1958
      Married 13 Oct 1978

      1) Abby Burianek 12 July 1979

      2) Jennifer Burainek 21 Oct 1981

2. Lucille Churchill 21 Aug 1920
   Max Gould 12 June 1920 - 1 March 1981
   Married 1 Nov 1940

   a. Richard Gould 10 Oct 1942
      Gail Burns 8 April 1946
      Married 9 Nov 1963

      1) Shelly Gould 19 Nov 1964

      2) Bobby Gould 5 Sept 1966 - 5 Sept 1966

      Richard Gould
      Eleise Spidell 14 April 1952
      Married 29 Sept 1972

      3) Leighann Gould 19 Nov 1976

b. Victor Gould 10 March 1944
Jodi Moreland 20 Feb 1953
Married 16 Oct 1972

1) Jovic R. Gould 9 June 1975

2) Jared L. Gould 20 Nov 1980

c. Glenn R. Gould 14 Oct 1952 - 27 March 1972

Lucille Churchill Gould
Harold J. Schmidt 29 Jan 1920
Married 12 Nov 1973

3. Rita Churchill 19 Sept 1923
Ralph Lutcavish 21 Nov 1922 - 27 Feb 1968
Married 12 Nov 1942

a. Thomas Lutcavish 19 July 1943
Joan Sawyer 26 Nov 1944
Married 12 Sept 1964

1) Steve J. Lutcavish 17 Oct 1965

2) Michael J. Lutcavish 25 June 1967

3) Tammy Lutcavish 12 Nov 1970

4) Stephanie Lutcavish(twin) 24 Nov 1973

5) Michelle Lutcavish(twin) 24 Nov 1973 -
21 Nov 1978

## 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| Frank and Lean Steinauer Vrtiska | 7 Sept 1945 |
| Leo and Erma Vrtiska Metzger | 9 June 1971 |
| Tillman and Anna Vrtiska Finch | 22 July 1980 |
| Rudolph and Mary Alice Lewis Vrtiska | 1 May 1956 |
| John and Alma Zelenka Vrtiska | 12 Feb 1958 |
| Marvin and Alice Vrtiska Hays | 6 Oct 1981 |
| Raymond and Emma Vrtiska Good | 9 Jan 1968 |

## DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH and THERESA

| | |
|---|---|
| Children | 10 |
| Grandchildren | 45 |
| Great Grandchildren | 153 |
| Great Great Grandchildren | 262 |
| Great Great Great Grandchildren | 118 |
| Great Great Great Great Grandchildren | 3 |
| Total | 591 |

ANNA
VRTIŠKA
WENZL

## IV. ANNA VRTISKA

Anna vrtiska, the fourth child of John and Mary Smrcka Vrtiska, was born on July 26, 1850, in Reuhlag, Bohemia, Austria. She came to the United States in 1866.

On November 25, 1877, she married Joseph Wenzl. They were married in Steinauer, Nebraska, by priest, P.F. McCarthy.

Joseph, the fifth child of Frank and Josephine Placha Wenzl, was born in Neuwallisdorf, Austria, on August 27, 1850. He stopped first in Chicago and worked as a cabinetmaker. After earning enough money, he traveled to Nebraska. It is thought that he stayed in Chicago about four years.

After their marriage, Joseph tells of not having any mittens to use in shucking corn. He wore socks on his hands to keep them warm during the extreme cold. He was a carpenter, farmer, and locksmith.

To this union four children were born; Rudolph, Mary(Mrs. Michael Weber), Anna(Mrs. Joseph C. Clema), and Josephine (Mrs. Frank Kamen).

Anna passed away in Pawnee County, Nebraska on May 29, 1904. Joseph passed away in Pawnee County, Nebraska on December 26, 1933. Both are buried in St. Anthony Cemetery in Steinauer, Nebraska.

IV. ANNA VRTISKA 26 July 1850 - 29 May 1904
JOSEPH WENZL 27 Aug 1850 - 26 Dec 1933
Married 25 Nov 1877

A. Rudolph H. Wenzl 29 Oct 1879 - 23 March 1976

B. Mary Josephine Wenzl Weber 2 Feb 1881 - 19 Dec 1959

C. Anna C. Wenzl Clema 23 July 1883 - 28 Jan 1943

D. Josephine Wenzl Kamen 10 April 1885 - 3 Nov 1973

## A. RUDOLPH H. WENZL

Rudolph Herman Wenzl, the oldest child of Anna Vrtiska and Joseph Wenzl, was born on October 29, 1879, in Pawnee County near Steinauer, Nebraska. Rudolph attended school through the eighth grade. He was a farmer and a member of the Holy Name Society.

On November 6, 1907, he was united in marriage to Amelia Anna Gyhra at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Steinauer, Nebraska.

Amelia was born on March 31, 1888, in Pawnee County, Nebraska, near the town of Burchard. She is the daughter of Frank and Anna Wenzl Gyhra. She attended school through the eighth grade. Her days were spent as a housewife, and she was a member of the Altar Society.

After their marriage, they lived on a farm south of Steinauer, Nebraska. This farm was the birthplace of Rudolph.

To this union four children were born; Amelia(Mrs. Ernest Christen), Lawrence, Agnes, and Carolina.

Rudolph passed away on March 23, 1976, at the Tecumseh Care Center in Tecumseh, Nebraska. The cause of death was a stroke. He is buried in the St. Anthony Cemetery, Steinauer, Nebraska. Amelia celebrated her 95th birthday in 1983.

A. Rudolph H. Wenzl 29 Oct 1879 - 23 March 1976
Amelia A. Gyhra 31 March 1888
Married 6 Nov 1907

1. Amelia J. Wenzl 24 Aug 1908
Ernest J. Christen 1 Sept 1904
Married 5 June 1933

a. Lawrence E. Christen 21 April 1934
Roma Jean Gyhra 2 Sept 1935
Married 27 April 1955

1) James W. Christen 11 Jan 1956
Sharolyn Findley 25 July 1959
Married 18 June 1977

a) Matthew J. Christen 14 Feb 1978

b) Rosemary Christen 20 Aug 1979

2) Carol A. Christen 20 March 1957
Dennis V. Antholz 9 Oct 1952
Married 14 June 1975

a) Jason M. Antholz 26 Sept 1979

b) Michelle Antholz 21 Nov 1981

3) Marie A. Christen 18 June 1958
Kenneth Cumro 1 Dec 1955
Married 28 July 1979

a) Kari M. Cumro 15 Jan 1980

b) Russell Cumro 25 March 1982

4) David E. Christen 20 July 1959
Patricia Loock 2 June 1958
Married 28 Oct 1978

a) Dawn M. Christen 5 April 1979

b) Daniel Christen 25 May 1980

c) Michael Christen 25 Oct 1981

5) Barbara J. Christen 18 May 1961

b. Christina A. Christen 4 June 1936
Anthony Hindera 12 Feb 1931
Married 12 Nov 1957

1) Genevieve Hindera 4 July 1958
James Lempka 19 Feb 1958
Married 10 June 1978

a) Asa James Lempka 22 July 1982

2) Evelyn Hindera 5 Feb 1960
Jay Jacobsen 27 Oct 1958
Married 25 April 1981

3) June C. Hindera 3 April 1964

c. Mildred B. Christen 17 Aug 1939
Roy Joseph Puchalla 15 Aug 1930
Married 21 Aug 1957

1) Cheryl A. Puchalla 15 July 1958
Charles Rabstejnek 21 Nov 1954
Married 6 Sept 1980

a) Philip Roy Rabstejnek 14 Apr 1983

2) Karen L. Puchalla 17 June 1960
Mike Costello 10 Dec 1959
Married 1 Dec 1979

a) Christopher J. Costello 7 Dec 1980

b) Theresa C. Costello 5 June 1982

3) Joan M. Puchalla 17 April 1962

d. Clara L. Christen 20 Aug 1945
John C. Bernadt 20 Nov 1943
Married 20 Nov 1965

1) Troy A. Bernadt 9 Feb 1969

2) Kyle C. Bernadt 22 Dec 1972

3) Kevin J. Bernadt 16 Oct 1974

2. Lawrence E. Wenzl 9 Oct 1909

3. Agnes M. Wenzl 26 May 1912 - 3 Jan 1913

4. Carolina R. Wenzl 3 March 1916

## B. MARY JOSEPHINE WENZL

Mary Josephine, eldest daughter of Joseph and Anna Vrtiska Wenzl, was born on February 2, 1881, at her parents farm five miles southeast of Steinauer, Nebraska. She spent her entire life in the Cold Point Vicinity in Pawnee County, Nebraska. Mary attended the Cold Point School.

On February 6, 1907, she was married to Michael J. Weber, the son of Nicholas and Catherine Zeimet Weber. They were married in St. Anthony's Catholic Church at Steinauer, Nebraska, with Father Carl Staff officiating.

Michael was born on April 13, 1879, at Beyren, Luxembourg. His early years of life were spent there. After the death of his mother, he came with his father, brothers and sisters in 1894 to the United States. They settled in Holt County, Nebraska. He stayed awhile at Atkinson, Nebraska before coming to Steinauer, Nebraska. After coming to Steinauer, he worked for his brother, John, in the livery stable.

Together, Mary and Mike lived on a farm six miles southeast of Steinauer, Nebraska. Here they spent their entire life until Mike's death.

To this union, two daughters were born; Marguerite(Mrs. Norbert Puhalla) and Josephine(Mrs. Emil Puhalla). The sisters married brothers.

Mike passed away on June 24, 1958 at home. The cause of death was a stroke. Mary passed away on December 19, 1959, due to leukemia. Both are buried in St. Anthony's Cemetery, Steinauer, Nebraska.

B. Mary Josephine Wenzl 2 Feb 1881 - 19 Dec 1959
Michael J. Weber 13 April 1879 - 24 June 1958
Married 6 Feb 1907

1. Marguerite M. Weber 3 May 1913
Norbert Z. Puhalla 6 Sept 1915
Married 10 Jan 1939

a. Eugene N. Puhalla 24 Dec 1941
Marcille Moyer 5 March 1944
Married 30 June 1962

1) Brian E. Puhalla 28 Jan 1964

2) Susan M. Puhalla 29 Nov 1966

Eugene N. Puhalla
Marda Justice Moslander 18 March 1941
Married 17 June 1977

b. Michael P. Puhalla 29 June 1944
Delores Schmit 18 Feb 1948
Married 30 July 1966

1) Deborah S. Puhalla 14 Aug 1967

2) Timothy M. Puhalla 5 Oct 1969

3) Laura Jean Puhalla 18 Sept 1974

4) Thomas John Puhalla 11 Aug 1980

c. Leon Joseph Puhalla 10 April 1949

d. Mary Agnes Puhalla 17 March 1951
Lynn Edward Wenzbauer 29 Jan 1950
Married 20 June 1970

1) Janet L. Wenzbauer 9 Jan 1971

2) James J. Wenzbauer 31 Jan 1976

2. Josephine C. Weber 12 Aug 1916
Emil F. Puhalla 9 Sept 1918 - 12 Sept 1964
Married 15 Jan 1946

a. Robert E. Puhalla 17 Sept 1947
Susan J. Davis 3 Sept 1946
Married 12 July 1969

1) Keisha A. Puhalla 20 July 1970

2) Robert E. Puhalla, Jr. 30 June 1973

3) Anna Marie Puhalla 12 June 1979

b. Ronald J. Puhalla 4 July 1949
Mary M. Steiner 25 Sept 1955
Married 27 Nov 1976

1) Joseph Nathan Puhalla 12 Aug 1978

c. Evelyn J. Puhalla 21 June 1951

d. Elaine J. Puhalla 14 Aug 1954
Arlyn R. Parde 5 Dec 1954
Married 4 Oct 1975

1) Lisa Jo Parde 28 April 1977

2) Michelle Rae Parde 1 June 1980

e. Emma Jolene Puhalla 29 Jan 1958

## C. ANNA C. WENZL

Anna C., the third child of Anna Vrtiska and Joseph Wenzl, was born on July 23, 1883, in Pawnee County, Nebraska.

On February 26, 1908, she was united in marriage to Joseph C. Clema at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Steinauer, Nebraska. Joseph is the son of Vincent and Josephine

Seated: Joseph Clema and Anna Wenzl, Standing: William Clema and Josephine Wenzl

Kovarik Clema. Their attendants are Josephine Kamen and William Clema.

Taking care of her family was at the top of Anna's list. She enjoyed gardening, canning fruits and vegetables, and baking; especially cream puffs and bread. Quilt making was one of her favorite pastimes.

Joseph was born in Steinauer, Nebraska, on July 15, 1885. You would find him busy with the following; raising cattle, hogs and sheep, farming, haying raising watermelon, and shearing sheep.

After their marriage, they lived southwest of Pawnee City, Nebraska, on a farm.

To this union, four children were born; Alice(Mrs. Raymond E. Wenzl), Joseph R., Ina(Mrs. Albert Spier), and Vincent.

Anna passed away on January 18, 1943 in Omaha, Nebraska. She is buried in St. Anthony Cemetery at Steinauer, Nebraska. Joseph passed away on October 25, 1971, in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Joseph is buried in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

C. Anna C. Wenzl 23 July 1883 - 28 Jan 1943
Joseph E. Clema 15 July 1885 - 25 Oct 1971
Married 26 Feb 1908

1. Alice Clema 10 April 1910
Raymond E. Wenzl 15 Oct 1905 - 3 May 1980
Married 12 Feb 1934

2. Joseph R. Clema 23 Aug 1911
Maxine Kunc 16 July 1921
Married 6 Feb 1940

a. Jolene Clema 26 Dec 1952
Don Lampton 14 Nov 1951
Married 9 March 1974

b. Joey Clema 26 June 1957

c. John Clema 4 Nov 1963

3. Ina L. Clema 31 Aug 1914
Albert Spier 16 May 1905
Married 25 Sept 1935

a. Albert W. Spier 10 May 1938
Arlene Vogel 9 July 1937
Married 26 Sept 1959

1) Eric Spier 9 May 1961

2) Kevin Spier 31 May 1965

3) Joel Spier 6 Oct 1968

b. Joan Spier(twin) 28 Mar 1944 - 28 Mar 1944

c. Jane Spier(twin) 28 Mar 1944 - 28 Mar 1944

4. Vincent Clema 26 July 1919 - 28 Oct 1932

## D. JOSEPHINE WENZL

Josephine Wenzl, the fourth child of Anna Vrtiska and Joseph Wenzl, was born in Pawnee County, Nebraska on April 10, 1885.

On February 1, 1910, she was united in marriage to Frank Kamen, the son of Joseph and Mary Cloda Kamen. They were

married in Steinauer, Nebraska, at the St. Anthony Catholic Church.

Frank was born on June 8, 1880, in Johnson County, Nebraska. He was a farmer.

To this union three children were born, Evelyn(Mrs. Frank Buman), Hilda(Mrs. Melvin Buhman), and Edmund.

Josephine passed away at the Pawnee City Rest Home on November 3, 1973. Frank passed away on March 4, 1966 in Pawnee County, Nebraska. Both are buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery at Burchard, Nebraska.

D. Josephine Wenzl 10 April 1885 - 3 Nov 1973
Frank Kamen 8 June 1880 - 4 March 1966
Married 1 Feb 1910

1. Evelyn Kamen 27 April 1912
Frank Buman 8 Dec 1909
Married 14 June 1939

2. Hilda Kamen 30 April 1915
Melvin Buhman 28 Sept 1913
Married 14 April 1942

a. Marie Buhman 1 Nov 1943
Robert Schmit 13 Feb 1931
Married 14 April 1964

1) Teresa Schmit 19 March 1965

2) Daniel Schmit 30 June 1968

3) Lisa Schmit 22 Sept 1969

b. Charles Buhman 15 Oct 1945
Barbara Lambert 6 March 1950
Married 7 Nov 1970

1) Kelly Buhman 12 Oct 1973

2) Kimberly Buhman 2 Nov 1976

c. James Buhman 5 Dec 1947
Marilyn Wagner 1 Jan 1947
Married 26 Feb 1976

1) Melissa Buhman 28 Jan 1980

2) Brian Buhman 13 Feb 1982

d. Eugene Buhman 20 Feb 1950
Janet Kellie 12 Oct 1955
Married 24 Aug 1974

1) Jay Buhman 22 Jan 1975

2) Chad Buhman 12 April 1979

e. Janice Buhman 22 Sept 1954
Brady Brostrom 1 April 1952
Married 20 Sept 1980

1) Sara Brostrom 31 Jan 1983

3. Edmund C. Kamen 17 June 1919
Dorothy Mertes 8 Jan 1929 - 1 Nov 1973
Married 17 April 1951

Edmund C. Kamen
Jeannine Bredemeier 21 Jan 1930
Married 24 Feb 1979

## 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| Rudolph and Amelia Gyhra Wenzl (celebrated 68 years of marriage) | 6 Nov 1957 |
| Ernest and Amelia Wenzl Christen | 5 June 1983 |
| Michael and Mary Josephine Wenzl Weber | 6 Feb 1957 |
| Frank and Josephine Wenzl Kamen | 1 Feb 1960 |

## DESCENDANTS OF ANNA and JOSEPH

| | |
|---|---|
| Children | 4 |
| Grandchildren | 13 |
| Great Grandchildren | 24 |
| Great Great Grandchildren | 41 |
| Great Great Great Grandchildren | 13 |
| Total | 95 |

# RUDOLPH VERTISKA

## V. RUDOLPH VERTISKA

Rudolph, the fifth child of John and Mary Smrcka Vrtiska, was born on October 1, 1853 in Bohemia.

On September 3, 1875, Rudolph was married to Frances Eis, the daughter of Anton and Marie Zulek Eis. They were married in Humboldt, Nebraska.

Frances was born on August 16, 1854, at Slavikof, Czechoslovakia. In 1868, she came with her parents to the United States, making the trip on what she believed to be the first steamship to sail the Atlantic Ocean. While it was faster than the sailing boats, they were 41 days making the trip across the water. After a short stay in New York, the family came directly to Humboldt to join her uncle, Charles Zulek and his family on a farm south of Humboldt.

Rudolph worked for Nims Brothers General Merchandise Partnership in Humboldt, Nebraska.

To this union, a son was born on October 1, 1877. He was named Rudolph Vertiska, Sr.

The father, Rudolph, died on December 31 , 1879, and Frances was left on her own with a small child. Rudolph is buried at Humboldt, Nebraska.

V. RUDOLPH VERTISKA 1 Oct 1853 - 31 Dec 1879
FRANCES EIS 16 Aug 1854 - 26 March 1940
Married 3 Sept 1875

A. Rudolph Vertiska, Sr. 1 Oct 1877

****According to the family, the spelling difference is for the following reason. Vrtiska is the Bohemian spelling and Vertiska is the American spelling. They decided that since they were in America, they would use the American spelling.

After the death of Rudolph, Frances later met Alois Watzek. On July 18, 1883, in Falls City, Nebraska, Fannie was married to Prof. Alois Watzek, the famous band director. To this union three children were born; two sons and one daughter. These children are; Charles, William and Mary (Mrs. Clay Nemechek).

Fannie and Alois celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on July 18, 1933.

Alois was born May 10, 1857, the son of Joseph and Catherine Hladik Watzek(Vacek). He was born in Bohemia. The spelling Vacek is used on the marriage certificate.

Alois died on January 15, 1936, and Fannie on March 26, 1940. She died after a bout with pneumonia. Both are buried in the Humboldt Cemetery, Humboldt, Nebraska.

FRANCES EIS VRTISKA 16 August 1854 - 26 March 1940
ALOIS WATZEK 10 May 1857 - 15 Jan 1936
Married 18 July 1883

## A. RUDOLPH VERTISKA, SR.

Rudolph Vertiska, Sr., the only child of Rudolph and Frances Eis Vertiska, was born on October 1, 1877, in Humboldt, Nebraska. His father passed away when he was only two years old and his mother later married Alois Watzek.

On August 7, 1907, Rudolph and Mary Barnhardt were united in marriage at Humboldt, Nebraska.

Mary, the daughter of August and Julia Triggs Barnhardt, was born on October 3, 1880 in Dawson, Nebraska.

Rudolph Vertiska, Sr.

They spent their married life in the vicinity of Humboldt, Nebraska, where Rudolph worked as a tin smith and druggist. He was a member of the Bohemian Turners Club and a fire chief for the Humboldt Volunteer Fire Department. He held this position for 45 years.

To this union one child, Rudolph Jr. was born on October 1, 1908. **It's interesting to note that all three Rudolph's have October 1 as their birthdate.

Mary died on May 19, 1962, after a bout with pneumonia. Rudolph died on November 22, 1969, also with complications from pneumonia. Both are buried in the cemetery at Humboldt, Nebraska.

Rudolph Vertiska, Jr. and Mary

A. Rudolph Vertiska, Sr. 1 Oct 1877 - 22 Nov 1969
Mary Barnhardt 3 Oct 1880 - 19 May 1962
Married 7 Aug 1907

1. Rudolph Vertiska, Jr. 1 Oct 1908
Buelah King 3 Oct 1912 - 11 May 1933
Married 10 Sept 1930

a. Joan Vertiska 27 Sept 1931
Steve Fankhauser 31 Dec 1928
Married 4 June 1949 (Divorced)

1) Mark Fankhauser 27 March 1957

2) Timothy C. Fankhauser 6 June 1960

DESCENDANTS OF RUDOLPH and FRANCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Children | 1 |
| Grandchildren | 1 |
| Great Grandchildren | 1 |
| Great Great Grandchildren | 2 |
| Total | 5 |

FRANCES
VRTISKA
MAROUSEK

## VI. FRANCES VRTISKA

Frances, the sixth child and youngest of John and Mary Smrcka Vrtiska, was born on July 10, 1857/1863 in Czechoslovakia. (A birth paper that follows shows her birthyear as being 1857, but the age on her marriage license makes the the birthyear as 1863.)

On July 23, 1882, in Chicago, Illinois, Frances was married to Frank Marousek. Frank, one of seven children

was born on August 2, 1862 to Vaclav(James) and Katerina Jamisek Marousek. This is taken from the parish records. Frank came to the Unites States in May of 1879.

Fran worked as a carpenter the early years of his life. In his later years, he was a men's tailor. He worked as a tailor until he was injured in an accident in 1928. He then retired.

To this union, nine children were born: Lena(Mrs. Fred Werner), Julia(Mrs. Wilfred Emard), Rudolph, James, Lucille(Mrs. Andrew Krebel), Frank, Frances(Mrs. Michael Kerins), George, and Florence.

Frances, Frank and their family lived in Chicago, Illinois until they moved to Forest Park, Illinois in 1911. They lived there until 1926. By then all of their children were married and away from home except Florence. They and Florence moved to Brookfield, Illinois. They later moved to Hollywood, Illinois. The boundary of their property in Brookfield, is now the western boundary of the Brookfield Zoo.

Frances very seldom left her home the last eleven years of her life becuase she felt she had to stay and care for Florence, who was bedridden with arthritis. Frances was a very kind and gentle lady. She was truly loved by all of her family and friends.

Frances passed away on August 2, 1942. Frank passed away on November 22, 1942. Both are buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 4101 Oak Park Ave., Stickney, Illinois.

VI. FRANCES VRTISKA 10 July 1857/1863 - 2 August 1942
Frank Marousek 2 Aug 1862 - 22 Nov 1942
Married 23 July 1882

A. Lena Marousek Werner 9 Oct 1883 - 26 Jan 1971

B. Julia Marousek Emard 1 Jan 1886 - 18 Sept 1958

C. Rudolph Marousek __ May 1887 - 13 March 1908

D. James Fred Marousek 27 Sept 1891 - 13 March 1908

E. Lucille Marousek Krebel __ Jan 1892 - 14 Dec 1918

F. Frank Marousek 27 Sept 1893 - 1 Nov 1975

G. Frances Marousek Kerins 2 Nov 1895 - 26 March 1972

H. George Washington Marousek 22 Feb 1900 - 25 Sept 1938

I. Florence Marousek 2 Nov 1902 - 8 April 1942

Back Row(L to R): Fred Werner, Jr., John Vrtiska, Jr., Charles Kalina. Middle Row: Robert Holechek, Lena Werner, Frances Marousek, Breuer sisters. Front Row: Al Emard, Donald Marousek, Florence Marousek, Julia Emard. Taken in 1933 in Chicago when Nebraska people visited World's Fair.

# Rodný a křestní list.

*Testimonium nativitatis et baptismi.*

Čeakoslovenská republika.
Respublica Čechoslovenica.

Okresní úřad fary: / Districtus polit. parochiae: Tábor

Okresní soud fary: / Districtus judicialis parochiae: Mladá Vožice

Č. exh. 215

Diecése česko-budějovická.
Dioecesis Bohemo-Budvicensis.

Vikariát: / Vicariatus: Jistebnice

Fara: / Parochia: Hoštice

Pošta: / Posta: Sudoměřice

Matriky křestní: / Libri baptisatorum: Kniha / Tomus VII List / Folium 18 Číslo řadové / Num. currens

| | |
|---|---|
| **Den, měsíc a rok** Dies, mensis, annus nativitatis et baptismi | narození 10. VII 1857 (t. j. dne desátého července) roku: tisícího osmistého padesátého sedmého<br>křtu 11 července 1857. |
| **Jméno křtícího** Nomen baptisantis | Aug. Hegre, farář |
| **Jméno pokřtěnce** Nomen baptisati | Františka Vrtišková |
| **Náboženství** Religio | římsko-katolické \| **Pohlaví** Genus: ženské \| **Lože** Torus: manželské |
| **Místo narození** Locus nativitatis | Nemyšl č. 8 — Okresní soud: Mladá Vožice; úřad: Tábor |
| **Porodní asistentka** Obstetrix | Anna Voves z Hoštic |
| **Otec** Pater jméno a příjmení, povolání a postavení v povolání, jeho otec a matka, místo narození, číslo domu, okres soudní, okresní úřad | Jan Vrtiška, šenkýř z Nemyšle č. 8, syn Josefa Vrtišky, sedláka z Oušavy a Doroty Bočkovcové ze Slabska |
| **Matka** Mater jméno a příjmení, její otec a matka, místo jejího narození, číslo domu, okres soudní, okresní úřad | Marie, dcera Jana Smrčky, Cedráře z Prudic č. 8 a Marie, roz. Veselíkové z Prudic |
| **Kmotrové** Patrini jméno, příjmení, stav a obydlí | Jan Šebor, mlynář z Oušavy č. 5<br>Anna Štámova, selka z Hoštic č. 12 |
| **Poznámka** | |

**Na důkaz toho stůj zde podpis a pečeť farního úřadu.**
In quorum fidem manu propria subscripsi et sigillo parochiali munivi.

*Dáno na* / Datum in farním úřadě v / officio in Hošticích

dne / die 13. prosince 1935

Zovolný, děkan

Frances Vrtiška now married to Frank Maršíček [illegible] a.d. 1881

Tiskem a nákladem Českoslovanské akc. tiskárny ﬁl. v Č. Budějovicích. zd. čís. 1/7. P. — Patisk vyhrazen.

# BIRTH AND BAPTISMAL PAPER

Republic of Czechoslavakia
Parrish Office: Tábor
District Court: Mladá Vozice

Diocesis Ofc: Česko Budějovická
Bishop's Office: Jistebnice
Parrish: Hoštice
Post Office: Ludoměřice

Christening Record Book VII Page 18

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Day, month, year of Birth and Baptismal | Born: 10 July 1857<br><br>Christened: 11 July 1857 | | |
| Name of Baptiser | Ang. Haeger, Priest | | |
| Name of Baptised | Františka Vrtišková (Francis Vrtiska) | | |
| Religion | Roman Catholic | Gender: Girl | Of Married Parents |
| Place of Birth | Nemyšle #8 (address) | County { Court: Mladá Vozice<br>Office: Tabor | |
| Assistant at Birth | Anna Voves from Hoštic | | |
| Father | Jan Vrtiška, bartender from Nemyšle, the son of Josef Vrtiška, farmer from Ourazu, and Doroty Bozkovcové from Slabska | | |
| Mother | Marie, Daughter of Jan Smrčky, carpenter from Trudic #8, and Marie Veselikové from Trudic | | |
| God Parents | Jan Šebor, Miller from Ourazu #5<br>Anna Stásnova, farmworker from Hostic #12 | | |

The Seal of my Parrish certifies this to be a true copy.

Signed in the Parrish in Hoštic

13 December 1935

/S/ Novotny, Bishop

---

Translated: June 1981
By: Vera Sandera
For: Donald F. Marousek

## A. LENA MAROUSEK

Lena, the first born child of Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek, was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 9, 1883.

On July 24, 1908, she was united in marriage to Fred Werner. Fred, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Werner, Sr., was born on April 8, 1888 in Brookfield, Illinois.

They spent their married life in the vicinity of Forest Park and Brookfield(Hollywood), Illinois. Lena spent her days staying busy with the duties associated with being a housewife. Fred was an electrician.

One son, Fred L., was born to this union.

Fred passed away on September 6, 1960 in Brookfield, Illinois. The cause of death was listed as a heart attack. Lena passed away on January 26, 1971 at Brookfield, Illinois. The cause of her death is listed as a stroke. Both are buried at Oak Forest Cemetery in the Chicago area.

A. Lena Marousek 9 Oct 1883 - 26 Jan 1971
Fred Werner 8 April 1888 - 6 Sept 1960
Married 24 July 1908

1. Fred L. Werner 19 April 1915 - 3 July 1982
Florence Crawford 22 March 1927
Married 2 Nov 1943

a. Wanda Werner 19 Oct 1945
Karol Leonard 26 June 1937
Married 15 June 1967

1) Elise Leonard 7 Sept 1969

2) Garret Leonard 11 Jan 1971

3) Todd Leonard 16 Apr 1972

4) Brian Leonard 4 July 1974

5) Kristan Leonard __ Sept 1975

6) Jason Leonard 18 Dec 1977

7) Kari Leonard 8 Jan 1979

8) Shawn Leonard 29 June 1980

9) Kevin Leonard _____ 1981

b. Fred Werner 24 May 1949

c. Dawn Werner 24 Jan 1952
Douglas Anderson 12 June 1952
Married 12 May 1973

1) April Anderson 30 Sept 1978

d. Bonnie Werner 25 April 1954
Anthony Cervone 21 Nov 1953
Married 25 Nov 1977

1) Angela Cervone 19 May 1979

2) Michelle Cervone 23 Jan 1983

## B. JULIA MAROUSEK

Julia, the second child of Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek, was born on January 1, 1886, in Chicago, Illinois. She attended school through the fourth grade and then worked at Marshall Fields.

On November 25, 1920, she was united in marriage to Wilfred Emard. They were married in Forest Park, Illinois.

Frank, one of nine children, was born on February 5, 1889 in Brookfield, Illinois. He attended school through the fourth grade and then became trained as a nickel plater.

To this union, two children were born; Alfred and Marie Mabel(Mrs. William Land).

The family made their home in Brookfield, Illinois.

Wilfred passed away on December 15, 1953 with a tumor. Julia passed away on September 18, 1958 with dropsy. Both are buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery, Stickney, Illinois.

B. Julia Marousek 1 Jan 1886 - 18 Sept 1958
Wilfred Emard 5 Feb 1889 - 15 Dec 1953
Married 25 Nov 1920

1. Alfred Emard 2 Nov 1922 - 12 Dec 1965
Dorothy Tiedeman 19 June 1927
Married 5 Aug 1947

a. Terry Emard 20 March 1949
Barbara Noland 19 Sept 1950
Married 12 June 1971

1) Jennifer Diane Emard 5 Oct 1974

2) Jeffrey Allen Emard 22 May 1981

b. Larry Emard 10 June 1952
Nancy Buehl 14 June 1955
Married 28 Sept 1974

1) Robert Victor Emard 5 May 1977

2) Jason James Emard 9 June 1978

Dorothy Tiedeman Emard
Bob Ambler 29 Jan 1933
Married 15 April 1967

2. Marie Mabel Emard 8 Sept 1923
William Land 19 June 1925
Married 5 Aug 1947

a. Linda Land 24 Dec 1949
Frank Zankl 6 Apr 1951
Married 18 July 1971

1) Gail Zankl 10 July 1971

2) Michael Zankl 23 March 1976

b. Rick Land 3 Oct 1952

c. Diane Land 1 May 1956
Dennis Goltz 7 May 1953
Married 19 Aug 1978

1) David William Goltz 11 Jan 1980

2) Tina Marie Goltz 18 June 1982

## C. RUDOLPH MAROUSEK

Rudolph Marousek, the third child of Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek, was born on May __, 1887.

During his short life he was a proprietor.

He passed away on March 13, 1908 from tuberculosis, complicated by a severe cold. He is buried in the Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois.

C. Rudolph Marousek __ May 1887 - 13 March 1908

## D. JAMES FRED MAROUSEK

James Fred Marousek, the fourth child of Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek, was born in Chicago, Illinois on September 27, 1891. He received seven years of grammar school at the Froebel School in Chicago. At age 14, he worked at Western Union Telegraph as a messenger boy. He later worked with his brother, Rudolph, in the Dry Goods Store that the family owned.

In 1911, the family moved to Forest Park, Illinois. James and his brother-in-law, Fred Werner, were together in an electrical business in Forest Park. Fred tended the store business and James did the electrical work. He wired homes when the homes were being converted from gas lights to electric lights.

In 1918, James became a machinist. Then in 1923, he went back to the electrical trade. He remained as an electrician until he passed away.

James married Bertha Broenen in Forest Park, Illinois on November 10, 1912. Bertha was the daughter of William and Marie Louise Deshautels Broenen. She was born in Montreal, Canada, on May 25, 1893. She came to Chicago, Illinois with her family at the age of nine years old. The family later moved to Forest Park, Illinois.

James and Bertha moved to Maywood, Illinois after they were married. To this union four children were born; Bertha, William, James Jr., and Doris(Mrs Jack Jans).

They were members of the Methodist Church in Maywood, Illinois. And also were very active in the Masonic Fraternities. James received his third degree in the Maywood Masonic Lodge #869 A.F. & A.M. on September 27, 1919. He received his degree as Royal Arch Mason on March 6, 1920. His degree of the order of the Maywood Commandary of Knights Templar #87 of Illinois, was received on December 12, 1923. He served as the Emminent Commander

of the Knights Templar in 1941.

Bertha was initiated into the Maywood Chapter Order of the Eastern Star #533 of Maywood, Illinois on April 9, 1928. She was President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights Templar in 1941.

James passed away on March 20, 1952, in Maywood, Illinois. His death was caused by cancer of the stomach. He is buried in Mount Emblem Cemetery, Elmhurst, Illinois. Bertha then moved to Forest Park, Illinois in 1969. She lived there until she passed away on June 17, 1974 from a massive coronary. She too is buried in Mt. Emblem Cemetery.

L to R: James Jr., Doris, Bertha Jr., Bill(taken in 1980)

D. James Fred Marousek 27 Sept 1891 - 20 March 1952
Bertha Z. Broenen 25 May 1893 - 17 June 1974
Married 10 Nov 1913

1. Bertha Ann Marousek 22 Oct 1914

2. William James Marousek 4 May 1916 - 20 June 1980
Marion Elizabeth MacDonald 13 July 1920 -
28 April 1958
Married 3 July 1939

a. Barbara Ann Marousek 5 May 1940
William J. Coglianese 7 July 1935
Married 11 Feb 1961

1) Anne Marie Coglianese 19 Sept 1961
Joseph Urbanek 31 July 1960
Married 17 Sept 1983

2) William C. Coglianese 22 April 1963 -
8 Sept 1976

b. Joyce Elaine Marousek 24 Aug 1941
Dr. Aniceto D'Sousa 17 April 1936
Married 29 April 1968 (Divorced)

1) Edward D'Sousa 21 Jan 1969

2) Elizabeth D'Sousa 24 Jan 1971

c. William Carl Marousek 4 July 1943 -
12 May 1959

d. Patricia Ann Marousek 1 Sept 1944
Dale Morsch 20 April 1945
Married 29 July 1970

1) Jennifer Morsch 25 May 1973

William James Marousek
Helen Hupp 1 June 1915
Married 13 March 1965

3. James Fred Marousek, Jr. 18 Oct 1919
Ethel Carlson 18 Aug 1923
Married 30 April 1949

a. Janet Marousek 15 July 1950
Robert Renzas 25 Nov 1948
Married 29 Nov 1969 (Divorced)

1) Robert A. Renzas 14 Oct 1970

b. Gregg Jay Marousek 19 July 1955
Joyce Liljestam 21 May 1953
Married 18 July 1976

4. Doris Marousek 10 Aug 1930
Dr. Jack Francis Jans 24 Oct 1927
Married 29 Aug 1953

a. Susan Jans 21 Sept 1955
Robert Thomas 24 March 1954
Married 13 Oct 1979

b. Jack Thomas Jans 2 Oct 1960

## E. LUCILLE MAROUSEK

Lucille is the fifth child of Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek. She was born in January of 1892. The 1900 census has her listed as Justini.

In November of 1913, she was united in marriage to Andrew Krebel. Andrew was born in Rome, New York.

To this union, four children were born; the twins, Florence (Mrs. Albert Oswald, Mrs. Clifford White), and Lorraine(Mrs. Oscar Everson).

Lucille passed away on December 14, 1918 from pulmonary tuberculosis. She is buried in the Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois. Andrew Krebel is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery at Riverside, Illinois.

E. Justini(Lucille) Marousek __Jan 1892 - 14 Dec 1918
Andrew Krebel 20 Oct 1889 - 14 Aug 1964
Married __ Nov 1913

1. Twin Apprx. 1914 or 1915

2. Twin Apprx. 1914 or 1915

3. Florence Krebel 22 Nov 1916
Albert Oswald _____
Married 17 May 1941

a. Catherine Lucille Oswald 2 Apr 1942
_____ Perrotta _____
Married _____ (Divorced)

Florence Krebel Oswald
Clifford White _____
Married 11 Jan 1947 (Divorced)

4. Lorraine Krebel 7 Nov 1918
Oscar Everson _____
Married _____

a. Charles Everson _____

b. Mary Ann Everson _____

**Both Charles and Mary Ann have descendants, but at this time we've not been able to locate them.

## F. FRANK MAROUSEK

Frank Marousek was born at Chicago, Illinois, September 27, 1896. He was the sixth of nine children born to Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek. He was raised and educated in Chicago, Illinois.

At age fifteen, he went to work as an Order Editor. He held that job both before and after his service in the U.S. Army. He was inducted into the Army on May 25, 1918. He served as a Private in Company "D" of the 140th Infantry. From October of 1918 until April of 1919, he served in France. He was honorably discharged on April 16, 1919.

In 1922, he moved with his family from Chicago to Brookfield, Illinois, where he worked as a carpenter.

On November 26, 1924, at City Hall in Chicago, Illinois, he married Erna Anna Prazak. Erna was born Hermina Anna Prazakova on October 19, 1900 at Svihov, Czechoslovakia. She was the fifth of nine children born to Frank and Barbora Scehly Prazak. Erna came to the U.S.A. with her family in 1906.

The newlyweds made their home first in Brookfield and then in Hollywood, Illinois. They, like everyone else, found life difficult during the years of the Great Depression. They lost the home that Frank had built with his own two hands; but with determination and a strength of character which would not be defeated, he managed to care for his growing family. The adverse conditions of the time tended to draw families closer together and with the families pooling whatever resources available, Frank and his brothers and sisters, Erna and her brothers and sisters, were all able to survive. At family gatherings in later years, the house would fill with laughter when they reminisced about those days and the things they did. Next to strength of character, a sense of humor just could be the reason that these people were all able to survive such adverse conditions while others were never able to put the

pieces together again.

Golden Anniversary taken November 26, 1974

In 1933, Frank was employed as a Water Works Operator by the village of Riverside, Illinois. His third child, Nancy Carol, was born here. They moved from Hollywood to Riverside, Illinois, and he in 1962 retired as the Superintendent of the Water Department. Over the years he received many awards and certificates of merit for his innovative and loyal service to the village. He also was an active member of the Volunteer Fire Department. In 1962, Erna also retired after having been employed for over twenty years by the Railway Express Agency in Chicago, Illinois.

After retiring, Frank and Erna moved to Sacramento, California where their son, Donald, and daughter, Nancy resided. They made their home there until their death. They are buried side by side, at East Lawn Sierra Hills Cemetery, Sacramento, California. Erna died on October 23, 1975, and Frank died just eight days later on November 1, 1975

F. Frank Marousek 27 Sept 1896 - 1 Nov 1975
Erna Prazak 19 Oct 1900 - 23 Oct 1975
Married 26 Nov 1924

1. Dorothy Marousek 25 Aug 1925
Jack Hultgren 9 Sept 1923
Married 17 Feb 1945

a. Holly Hultgren 25 Nov 1950

b. John Hultgren 17 Sept 1952

2. Donald Frank Marousek 20 Jan 1929
Doris Mae Hiler 12 May 1930
Married 14 June 1952

a. Mark Donald Marousek 24 April 1958

b. Tracy Lynn Marousek 24 Sept 1961
M. Jay McCarthy 12 Oct 1960
Married 24 Sept 1982

c. Becky Sue Marousek 15 Feb 1966

3. Nancy Marousek 10 Nov 1935
Norman Moriearty 19 Dec 1932
Married 14 May 1954

a. Barbara Ann Moriearty 1 Oct 1955

## G. FRANCES MAROUSEK

Frances, the seventh child of Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek, was born on November 2, 1895, in Chicago, Illinois.

On April 11, 1917, Frances was united in marriage to Michael George Kerins. They were married in Forest Park, Illinois, at the St. Bernadine Church.

George, as he was known by his family was born on June 9, 1894. His parents are James Aloysius Kerins and Anna Jane Short.

During the Depression years, the carpentry business which was George's livelihood since in the 20's did not fare well. He then did some work for the government, but it seems there was nothing permanent.

Frances was a housewife from the time she was married. Before marriage, she worked at Western Electric Hawthorne Plant in Cicero, Illinois.

To this union, five children were born; George, Anna Jane (Mrs. William Smyth), Donald, Nancy(Mrs. Robert Pople), and Harry.

George passed away on June 4, 1946, in Western Springs, Illinois. After his death, Frances worked in the hospital for a short time. She passed away on March 26, 1972, in Libertyville, Illinois. Both are buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Stickney, Illinois.

G. Frances Marousek 2 Nov 1895 - 26 March 1972
Michael George Kerins 9 June 1894 - 4 June 1946
Married 11 April 1917

1. George Frank Kerins 26 March 1918
Ethel Rose Oliverius 8 June 1923
Married 3 July 1941

a. George Charles Kerins 16 May 1942
Sue Ellen Robertson 27 April 1941
Married 21 May 1960

1) Cheryl Sue Kerins 27 Feb 1961

2) Donna Lynn Kerins 16 May 1962

b. William Anthony Kerins 25 Sept 1945
Crystal Lynne Vana 3 April 1947
Married 5 Oct 1969

1) Jason Vana Kerins 28 Oct 1970

2) Meredith Catherine Kerins 12 March 1973

c. James Allen Kerins 25 Sept 1946
Katherine M. Coddington 2 May 1950
Married 17 Oct 1968

1) Katherine Lisa Kerins 29 May 1969

2) Kimberly April Kerins 4 July 1972

d. Philip R. Kerins 24 April 1951
Angela Marie Gaugush 6 Aug 1956
Married 21 Jan 1978

1) Cary W. Gaugush Kerins 5 May 1975

2) Jeremy Ray Kerins 4 March 1979

e. Thomas Kerins 21 July 1955

f. Deborah Kerins 13 Oct 1958
Wayne Burnett 7 April 1955
Married 15 June 1976

1) Cory Wayne Burnett 1 Oct 1977

2. Anna Jane Kerins 5 Dec 1920
William Smyth 3 Oct 1920
Married 31 Jan 1942

a. Jacqueline Smyth 18 Aug 1945
Grant Bloedorn 28 Oct 1943
Married 7 Oct 1968

1) Page Bloedorn(adopted) 18 April 1966

2) Becky Bloedorn 14 Aug 1969

3) Monica Bloedorn 7 July 1970

4) Heidi Bloedorn 21 March 1974

b. Michael Smyth 13 Jan 1951

3. Donald Kerins 27 Sept 1923 - 16 Jan 1979
Yin Yau 26 Nov 1947
Married 15 Aug 1973

a. Michael Kerins 17 Dec 1951

4. Nancy Kerins(twin) 29 May 1932
Robert Pople 3 July 1937
Married 29 June 1973

a. Cathy Pople 18 Sept 1963

b. Wendy Pople 15 July 1965

c. Jill Pople 17 July 1968

5. Harry Kerins(twin) 29 May 1932
Joan Horky 16 Dec 1941
Married 12 May 1962

## H. GEORGE WASHINGTON MAROUSEK

George, the eighth child of Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek, was born on February 22, 1900, in Chicago, Illinois. George attended school through the tenth grade and then attended a drafting and heating system school. This enabled him to go to work as a heating and ventilating draftsman.

On September 7, 1923, he married Mabel Helen Bruhns. They had met three years earlier when Mabel dropped her handkerchief on purpose in the Busy Bee Ice Cream Parlor. George took the bait and picked it up. They were married in Wheaton, Illinois, by a justice of the peace.

Mabel Bruhns was born at 222 DesPlaines Avenue in Forest Park, Illinois on April 6, 1904. She was the youngest of six children born to Fred and Christina Werobke Bruhns. Mabel attended school through eighth grade.

George and Mabel followed the Protestant religion. To this union, three children were born; George E., Delwyn A., and Alice(Mrs. George Lubinski).

In 1931, as a result of the Depression, the Marouseks opened a Speakeasy in Forest Park Illinois. Then two years later, when Prohibition was repealed, they were able to open a tavern called the "Schnitzel Bank". They both worked very hard and turned it into a very successful business venture. Then George became ill with tuberculosis and died two years later on September 25, 1938.

Mabel continued to run the tavern for 18 years while raising the three children. The children grew up to be a fire chief, a fire lieutenant, and a legal secretary.

George is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois. Mabel is living at 4010 Butterfield Road,

Bellwood, Illinois 60104.

The pictures below show each of them when they were approximately 38 years old.

H. George Marousek 22 Feb 1900 - 25 Sept 1938
Mabel Bruhns 6 April 1904
Married 7 Sept 1923

1. George E. Marousek 4 Sept 1925
Ann Maka 17 April 1926
Married 7 Aug 1948

2. Delwyn A. Marousek 20 June 1927
Barbara McCarrell 2 March 1932
Married 30 June 1951

a. Eileen Marousek 15 Jan 1952

b. Gary Marousek 8 Feb 1953
Karin Johnston 17 April 1956
Married 31 July 1976

1) Matthew G. Marousek 19 May 1978

2) Mark W. Marousek 6 July 1981

3) Michael D. Marousek 19 Jan 1983

c. Linda Marousek 12 Sept 1954

d. Craig Marousek 13 April 1959

e. Gail Marousek 25 July 1960

f. Thomas Marousek 18 Nov 1964

3. Alice M. Marousek 23 Nov 1931
George Lubinski 26 May 1927
Married 7 Oct 1955

# I. FLORENCE MAROUSEK

Florence was born on November 2, 1902, at 22nd Street and Crawford Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. She attended Eugene Field Elementary School in Forest Park, Illinois.

Florence spent her days at home taking care of her mother. In later years, she herself was bedridden with arthritis for about ten years.

She was a member of the Catholic Church.

Florence passed away on A ril 8, 1942. She is buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 4101 Oak Park Avenue, Stickney, Illinois.

I. Florence Marousek 2 Nov 1902 - 8 April 1942

## 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| Frank and Frances Vrtiska Marousek | 23 July 1932 |
| Fred and Lena Marousek Werner | 24 July 1958 |
| Frank and Erna Prazak Marousek | 26 Nov 1974 |

## DESCENDANTS OF FRANK and FRANCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Children | 9 |
| Grandchildren | 22 |
| Great Grandchildren | 44 |
| Great Great Grandchildren | 39 |
| Total | 114 |

*****and now you are at the end of the book. It is my sincere hope that you get as much enjoyment and pleasure from it as I received in putting it together. Since my information came from many sources which included tombstones, church records, court house records, family records, many people's memories, newspapers, county histories, etc., I realize some of the data may be incorrect; as I just put it together to the best of my ability. There is much more information which has yet to be found.

If you would take a few minutes and jot down any errors which you found and any information which has not been included, and mail it to myself or to Dorothy Vrtiska Gunzelman, we may be able to have this book revised at a later date. This would also make me feel this project has been worth the time and effort put forth.

Again, a big thank you to all of you who helped. Without your helping hands, this could have been lost and never recorded.

Sharylin Vrtiska Knock
1920 East 49th Court
Terre Haute, Indiana 47802

Dorothy Vrtiska Gunzelman
4811 Hickory Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68106

# — NOTES —

# — NOTES —

# — NOTES —

# — NOTES —

# — NOTES —